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**Abstract**

A clinical interview with a father who was able to inspire his “unmotivated son”

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This paper discusses a case to illustrate the characteristics and benefits of interviewing fathers and the psychoanalytic understanding of the father-son relationship. The subject is a father who worried about his son's lack of motivation and documented his son's communications and circumstances. The changes and growth in the relationship were introduced through strengthening the emotional connection of the father-son relationship. An assessment predicted that the problems experienced by the son would lead to a fixation in the latent phase, preventing him from maturing. The therapist empathized with the father based on clinical psychology and advised him to emotionally engage with his son in a relationship of a dyadic isogender complex rather than in an Oedipal relationship of a strict father. The change in the son is told symbolically through “the story of an elementary school student who recovered after six years in a vegetative state.” The transformation that takes place also changes the child's mother. The father's documenting style in therapy allowed him to see the whole family and simultaneously protect his intellectual defensiveness.

**Keywords:** clinical interview with a father, father-son relationship, pre-Oedipal (dyadic) isogender complex

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