CONCLUSIONS
Swedish CH nurses perceive changes in paternal attitudes and practices over time and promoting co-parenting was on their agenda. However, while they accepted fathers, they did not see themselves as active agents in involving fathers, but rather saw society as affecting father involvement.

INTRODUCTION
Swedish Child Health Centers (CHCs) are attended by 98 percent of parents of young children.

Father attendance has increased somewhat over the years, but little research has been conducted on CH nurses’ views of father involvement at the Child Health Centers.

RESULTING THEMES

1. The CH nurse’s own agenda
   • The infant’s advocate
     “Like giving water to babies instead of milk and you see the weight loss. Then you can obviously point out that this is related to the children needing food.”

   • Supporting parents and co-parenting
     “I think that it is very important that both parents work together. And we also talk a lot about relationships—that you don’t only go into your ‘parent role’, but that you are also a couple.”

2. CH nurse’s perceptions of their own role in involving fathers
   • It’s up to them to come
     “I think it’s up to them [the parents] to decide who comes to the child health clinics. I will ask the mother, if she communicates everything to the father… But I don’t say anything else.”

   • Making accommodations for fathers
     “We would love to get more fathers to come here. But how, I do not know… maybe make parent groups for children older than one year.”

3. CH nurse’s opinion about the father’s role
   • The fathering role has changed
     “They ask questions about supporting the mothers, and they’re very involved...Like they don’t mind changing diapers and feeding.”

   • Fathers attend the CHC more than before
     “Well they are able and they are interested, so they take time off work (...) to come to the child health center.”

IMPLICATIONS
Nurses need to become more aware of their attitudes and the messages they convey to parents – both mothers and fathers – about their engagement in the child health services.