



**FIG 2-6** Learning new roles in reconstituted families as a mother and father can enhance parenting relationships.

## Parenting in Dual-Earner Families

No change in family lifestyle has had more impact than the large numbers of women moving away from the traditional homemaker role and entering the workplace ([Kaakinen, Gedaly-Duff, and Hanson, 2009](#)). The trend toward increased numbers of dual-earner families is unlikely to diminish significantly. As a result, the family is subject to considerable stress as members attempt to meet often competing demands of occupational needs and those regarded as necessary for a rich family life.

Role definitions are frequently altered to arrange a more equitable division of time and labor, as well as to resolve conflict, especially conflict related to traditional cultural norms. Overload is a common source of stress in a dual-earner family, and social activities are significantly curtailed. Time demands and scheduling are major problems for all individuals who work. When the individuals are parents, the demands can be even more intense. Dual-earner couples may increase the strain on themselves to avoid creating stress for their children. Although there is no evidence to indicate that the dual-earner lifestyle is stressful to children, the stress experienced by the parents may affect the children indirectly.

### Working Mothers