



Top Tips For Boys (That work with girls too!)



Praise!

Boys seem to need more praise than girls. Try to say 3 positive things for every negative thing you have to say, and try to be specific about what you're praising. Catch him doing something good and praise him for it.

Talk!

It's important to get boys speaking and listening from the beginning, so think of as many opportunities as you can for talking

- Talk as you do jobs around the house;
- Chat about things you see when you're out and about;
- Talk about the things you watch on television;
- Play games like 'I spy';
- Sing and play rhymes and action songs.

It's down to you!

Develop his independence.

- Help them to establish routines for daily tasks;
- Help them with organising things, making lists of things he might need for school;
- Encourage him to get dressed on his own in the morning.

The sky's the limit!

Encourage him to have a 'can do' attitude, to see mistakes as something he can learn from.



Read!

Read to him. Read with him. Let him read to you.

- Enjoy sharing books together. Let him hold the books and turn the pages;
- Talk about notices, signs and street names;
- Encourage him to join in parts of the story;
- Help him notice familiar things in the books you are looking at together;
- Join the library, talk about and choose different types of books;
- Remember reading isn't just about books – take advantage of the reading opportunities on websites, hand held and other electronic games.



Make a mark!

Show him that his ideas and thoughts are valuable and can be expressed and shared with others in lots of different ways that can be fun. These early marks are precious and should be valued, they are the beginnings of him becoming a writer.

For early writers

- Encourage him to make marks using lots of different implements and lots of different surfaces – sticks in mud, fingers in paint, steamy windows, shaving foam, paint brushes and sponges (and anything else you can think of!)
- Encourage him to play with paints and to draw;
- Praise all his efforts and join in!
- Talk about the marks with him and encourage him to make connections and build up stories e.g. 'Look you've made lots of circles.'

For developing writers

- When it's appropriate, talk through with him what he is trying to achieve. Resist the temptation to do it for him, in this way you can help him see himself as a writer.
- Be a role model - Let him see you writing cards, lists, notes, texting, e-mailing, internet ordering etc.
- Have an interactive message board where you can leave messages for each other;
- Encourage him to reflect on his writing, and celebrate his success with him.



Ideas taken from 'Getting the best out of boys' – Gary Wilson
Creativity + communication + collaboration = learning Professor Iram Siraj-Blatchford
This is the way I learnt to write – Suzanne Mc. Ewan and Ros Bayley
Securing boys' literacy – The Basic Skills Agency

Boys of all ages, like girls, cannot be spoiled by too much healthy love and support from their parents. Instead, boys who share a close connection to their caregivers will likely become more confident, do better in school, sports, music and later have a stronger likelihood of avoiding substance misuse, than boys who have distant relationships with their parent(s) and caregiver(s).

Barry MacDonald 'Mentoring boys to becoming caring, courageous and ethical men.'



It has been said that the best way to prepare the very young for reading is to hold him on your lap and read aloud to him stories he likes over and over again. The printed page, the physical comfort and security, the reassuring voice, the fascination of the story, all these combine in the child's mind to identify books as something which hold great pleasure. This is the most valuable advice that a parent can be given.

Department of Education and Science

Genuine adult interest in pupils' work has long been understood as a significant motivating factor for children. Strong parental involvement in boys' education has been identified as a benefit to their social and emotional development, as well as encouraging boys to gain recognition for their skills.

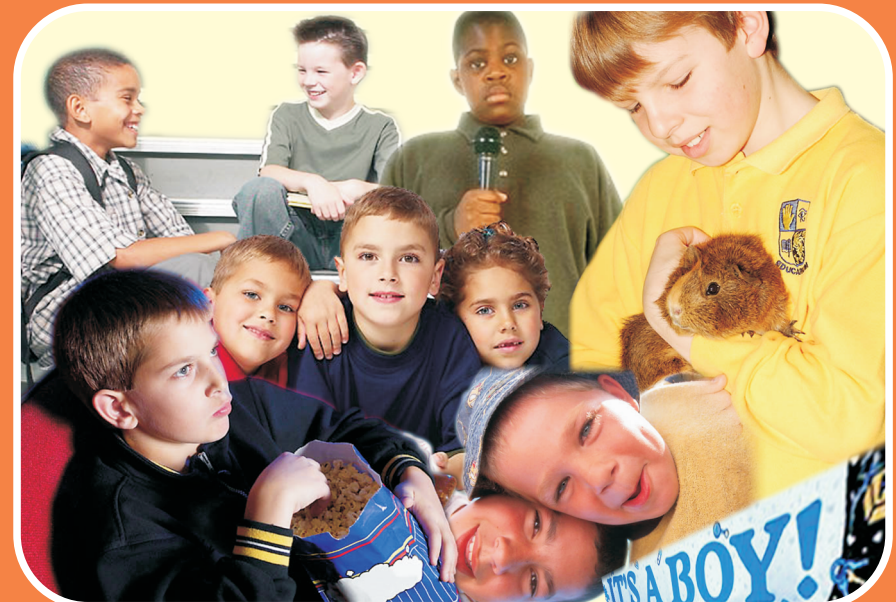
Boys can do better – Kent County Council



Research shows that learning outcomes improve when there is a shared understanding between teachers, parents/carers and other professionals of the processes that lead to improved learning and well-being in the classroom. Parents have an important stake in the education of their children and play a significant part in supporting their children's learning. Effective parental involvement sets aspirations and shapes the child's self concept as a learner.

Good practice in parental involvement in primary schools - Estyn

Boys Will Be Boys!



Helping Boys to Tackle Literacy