



Understanding Growing Boys

Recognizing and Responding to the
Emotional Needs of Young Boys

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True or False?



1. *True or false?* Two-year-old boys are more physically aggressive than two-year-old girls.
2. *True of false?* Three-year-old boys are more physically aggressive than three-year-old girls.
3. *True of false?* Infant girls are more emotionally vulnerable than infant boys.
4. *True of false?* According to the U.S. Department of Education boys make up two-thirds of the student population in special education classes.
5. *True of false?* There are more girls than boys in the top 2% of the I.Q. scale.

Classroom Strategies

- Bring strong, positive male role models into the classroom in the form of fathers, grandfathers, volunteers, uncles, etc.
- Let boys play physical games.
- Create learning activities where boys can use their bodies.
- Allow, with guidance, topics that interest boys that have in recent years become taboo.
- Allow boy humor.
- Don't be too hard on the class clown, embrace his humor, and allow jokes at appropriate times.
- Cultivate a sense of humor about boys' sense of humor.
- Use literature when male role models are not available.
- Include father and males with father roles on a daily basis.

Keys to raising emotionally strong boys (Thompson and Kindlon)

- Boys need permission to have an internal life – respect it, refer to it, share your own internal life.
- Accept and allow that boys need a high level of physical activity.
- Use boy language to talk to boys.



Understanding Growing Boys Children's Literature

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