

Lost Boys: Strategies to Help Educators Navigate the World of Boys for Academic Success

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Introductions

- Share who you are and what you do.
- How are you feeling today?
- What is one goal you have for today?
- Who can help you accomplish that goal?
- What is one thing you did in the last 3 days that you are proud of or would like to do again?

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Boys : What Makes Them Tick?



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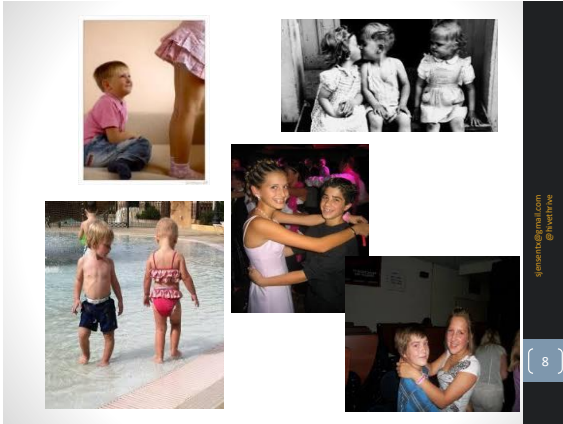
Do boys engage in different bxs than girls?

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What challenging bxs do you see more with boys than girls?

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Boyology: Understanding Today's Boys Inside and Out

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Male vs. Female Brain



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Male vs. Female Brain



4 Primary Differences



Processing
Chemistry
Structure
Blood Flow



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Processing



Male brains utilize nearly seven times more gray matter for activity while female brains utilize nearly ten times more white matter.

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Gray Matter/White Matter



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Chemistry



Male and female brains process the same neurochemicals but to different degrees and through gender-specific body-brain connections.

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Chemistry



- Dopamine
- Testosterone
- Cortisol

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Chemistry: Testosterone



- Most men produce 6-8 mg of the male hormone testosterone per day, compared to most women who produce 0.5 mg daily, 12 to 16 times more!

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Chemistry: Testosterone



- Doting Daddy Brain: 30% Reduction in Testosterone Production
- Change in Perceptual Circuitry

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Chemistry: Cortisol



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Physiological changes in the brain from a stressful childhood

- Frequent traumatic events in childhood may cause chemical changes in the brain so the stress-regulation system does not function properly.
- Chemical markers affix themselves to genes that govern the production of stress-hormone receptors in the brain.

Cortisol



- Individuals are less able to distinguish between real and imagined threats.
- May overreact to confrontation or not recognize risky situations.
- This may be mitigated by consistent exposure to stability.

Cortisol



- Small increases in cortisol have a positive effect
- Higher levels have been shown to impact cognitive function. The brain is hijacked and higher order thinking and memory is impaired.

Jacob and Nadel (1985)

THE CONFLICT CYCLE



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Irrational Beliefs

- A unique set of beliefs that is developed based on individual experiences and relationships in childhood, which determine how he/she views him/herself and his/her world.

Automatic Negative Thoughts (ANTS)

- I'm stupid.
- I'll never be good enough.
- Adults want to make me look stupid.
- I'm worthless.
- I always fail.

The Stress Response

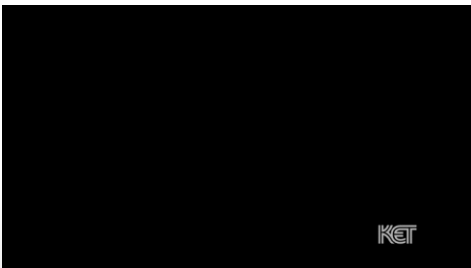
- Activity Sheet

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/trauma-sensitive-schools-training-package>

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Phases of Escalation

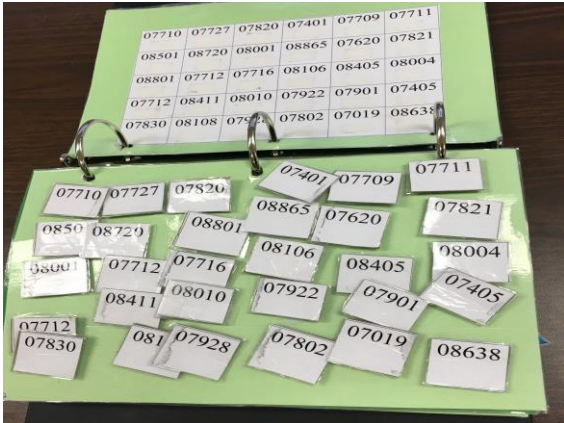


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R-A-P


- Relax and Reflect
- Assess
- Plan







Structure




“Structural” differences refers to actual parts of the brain and the way they are built, including their size and/or mass.

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Structure



The right and left hemispheres of the male and female brains are not set up exactly the same way.

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Structure



Males often have a larger **amygdala**, the alarm system for threats, fear, danger and pleasure.

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Structure



The Amygdala and Testosterone: Aggression Nurturance

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Structure: The Limbic System



- The hippocampus consolidating learning and converts information from working memory to long term storage.
- The amygdala plays an important role in both emotion and long term memory.

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Blood Flow



The female brain has far more natural blood flow throughout the brain at any given moment as compared to the male brain.

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Physical Regulation



Patterned, Rhythmic Repetitive:

- Qigong
- Stretching
- Change of physical position
- Body Scan

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The Male Brain: Hard or Hard-Wired?



- List 2 new insights you gained about the male brain.
- How will a better understanding of the male brain help you be more effective in your work with boys?

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Tough-Guise and the Macho Paradox

- **Who's a sissy?**

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Tough-Guise and the Macho Paradox

- **Activity**
 - **What does it mean to, "be a man"?**

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Tough-Guise and the Macho Paradox



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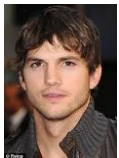
Male Archetypes



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Strong Silent Guy



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The Superhero



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Thug/Gangster



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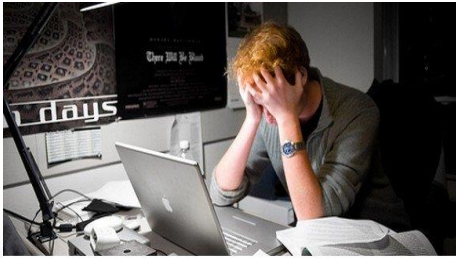
Man Child



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Boys Online



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Boys Online

- 99% of boys play video games

Dear Girls,
If a guy pauses a
video game just to
text you back.

Marry him.
Relationship Advice

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Boys Online

- More than half of teens have made new friends online, and a third of them (36%) say they met their new friend or friends while playing video games. Among boys who have made friends online, 57% have done so by playing video games online (compared with just 13% of girls who have done so).
- Nearly a quarter (23%) of teens report that they would give a new friend their gaming handle as contact information. Fully 38% of teen boys would share a gaming handle, compared with 7% of teen girls.

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Boys Online

Intimacy Disorder

- Too much “screen-time” and not enough face-to-face socializing leaves a young person inadequately prepared for achieving satisfactory social connections in the real world

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Boys Online

- 90% of video games rated appropriate for children over 10 contain high violence
- 50% of parents don't monitor video game ratings

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Boys Online

- 34% of youth online receive unwanted pornographic exposure
- 93% of boys are exposed to internet porn

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Coupling Statements

- Coupling statements are used to describe the behavior that is being exhibited while providing a more appropriate option



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Effective Coupling Statements

- “It looks like you are thinking about hitting something, a better choice might be to have a seat.”
- “Instead of yelling and swearing, a better choice might be to take a couple straw breaths.”

Ineffective Coupling Statements

- “You are making some comments, a better choice would be not to talk.”
- “You are making some threats, a better choice would be to shut your mouth.”

Boysdom: Boys and the Classroom

The number one predictor of a child's success in school is the expectations of the adults.

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The Facts

- 73.4% of school children diagnosed with learning disabilities are boys.
- Boys are 2-3 times more likely to be placed in special education classes than girls.
- Boys make up 80% of school disciplinary referrals.
- Boys are four and a half times more likely to be expelled from preschool.
- 77% of kids expelled from public elementary and secondary schools are boys.
- 80% of children taking Ritalin are boys.
- Boys are 30% more likely to drop out of school than girls.

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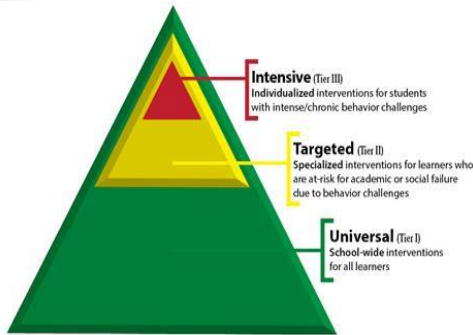
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The Power of a Teacher

I have come to the frightening conclusion. I am the decisive element at my school. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate, humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, a child humanized or dehumanized."

Haim Ginott

Designing School-Wide Strategies



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Pre-Teach

- Procedures
- Explicit Instruction
 - Tell and Show
 - Natural Models

Social Skills-The Great Equalizer

- Validate
- Affirm
- Bridge
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Code Switching and DEI

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Teaching Social Skills

Students with stronger social emotional skills tend to do better in school. One study of eighth grade students found that a measure of self-discipline—one aspect of social emotional development—was a better predictor of grades, school attendance, and admission into a competitive high school program than even IQ. (Duckworth, Seligman, 2005)

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Teaching Social Skills

Social emotional development can help students graduate from college and land a well-paying job. Children who demonstrate greater social emotional skills as young as kindergarten are more likely to have graduated from college and hold a full-time job 20 years later. Adolescents with these skills earn more as adults.

(Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2015)

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Teaching Social Skills

Research shows that children with a stronger social emotional skill set were less likely to experience health problems, struggle with substance abuse, or engage in criminal activity as they got older.

(Moffitt, Arseneault, et al, 2010)

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So Many Skills...So Little Time

- Following Instructions
- Accepting "No"
- Accepting Feedback/Consequence
- Disagreeing
- Staying Calm

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Praise Ratios

- Gottman: research conducted on positive-negative interactions in marriages
 - 90%+ accuracy in prediction rate
- When is enough enough?
 - 4:1? 5:1? 13:1?

Pre-Correction

- Remind
 - “Is that the right way?”
- Recall
 - “What is a better way?”
- Redirect
 - “Can you show me a better way?”
- Praise

Identifying Bx Activity

- <https://tinyurl.com/y6shpu8u>

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Action Plan

- List three activities you will put into practice tomorrow.
- How will the information you learned today change or improve your approach to working with boys?
