



New Perspective...New Growth

Enhancing Teaching for Boys

- Use manipulatives that require boys to employ fine motor skills.
- Provide a larger learning space when possible.
- Make lessons kinesthetic and experiential. Structure activities for movement.
- Use technology as a learning and teaching tool. Balance study and screen time.
- Use graphic organizers that compartmentalize concepts into small sections.
- Keep verbal instructions short. Don't layer instructions. Write layered instructions as numbered steps on the board or worksheet.
- Surround boys with reading material they will enjoy, such as real life nonfiction, adventure, sports, or how-to books. Provide a variety of reading levels.
- Expose boys to a variety of male mentors from many walks of life that illustrate different ways to be successful.
- Many boys may not hear as well as girls and need to be moved closer to the front of a room.
- Provide differentiated writing assignments in which girls can write about description, sensory details, feelings and boys can describe events or action.
- Be aware that boys will continually test their manhood by doing risky actions and that they overestimate their abilities.
- Boys in groups do stupid things. Begin any new physical activity with lessons from a trained teacher.
- Ask boys about their lives when they want to be alone. Stress tends to cause boys to choose isolation.
- Ask boys about their studies since they most likely study alone and don't ask for help from teachers.
- Avoid small group activities for boys unless each one has a different but equal goal to achieve yet all members together are held responsible for a team score.
- Provide a moderate level of stress through timing or some sort of challenge to engage a boy's interest.

Sources: Gurian, M. & Stevens, K. (2005) *The Minds of Boys*. San Francisco: Josey Bass. Sax, Leanoard (2005). *Why Gender Matters*.

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