

What About Those Boys?

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Boy Statistics:

- 1) Last year, 34% of preschool children were expelled, 87% of them were boys
- 2) 81% of children "kicked out" of school last year were boys
- 3) Boys are 6 times more likely to be "misdiagnosed" with ADD or ADHD
- 4) Boys are 4 times more likely to be put in special education
- 5) Boys are 7 times more likely to be labeled with reading or language delays
- 6) Boys are more likely not to complete high school
- 7) Boys are 9 times more likely to be labeled with a behavior problem
- 8) Boys are 4 times more likely to commit suicide

Developmental/Structural Differences:

In most cases girls brains mature earlier (boys can be 12 - 18 months behind)

Girls acquire their complex verbal skills as much as 1 year earlier

The corpus colosum in females is up to 20% larger

Girls take in more sensory data

Boys have a thicker skull

Functional Differences:

The resting female brain is more active than the activated male brain

Male brains turn on (like a machine) to do a task, then goes in to pause state

The male brain is overwhelmed by stimulation more quickly

Boys respond better to loud noises

Six times more girls sing in tune

Males have better night vision

Girls have better long term memory

Language Differences:

Communication among boys is 55% facial expressions; 38% voice tone; 7% voice alone

On the average, females produce more words than males (by 5 years of age girls have 5,000 - 7,000 word vocabularies; boys have 3,000 - 5,000)

Girls use words as they learn them

Boys tend to work silently

Boys work out codes among themselves

Boys relate language with action

Use of Space:

Boys tend to need more space when they learn
Girls usually stay within a confined space
In block play; boys build tall; girls build low and wide
Boys move more objects in space

Testosterone:

Preschool boys can have up to 5 testosterone spikes an hour
School age boys can have up to 7 spikes an hour
Adolescent boys can have up to 10 spikes an hour
Boys engage in more motor activity during a spike

Feelings and Emotion:

Boys process and release feelings in quick bursts of energy
Males are wired to have delayed reactions to problems
Male feelings are expressed more physically
Males can go into a "cave" state for protection
Boys do not talk about their feelings

Bonding and Attachment:

Bonding and attachment must occur before the age of five
Roughhousing is essential for bonding
Hugging, handshaking, back slapping, punching, pinching are modes of bonding
Gun play, sword fighting, kicking games are not violent initiators
Bossy kids are healthy kids
Give choices that are powerful

Learning:

98% of information we receive leaves within 5 minutes unless it is real, hooked to an emotion, relevant to the child
Movable objects are needed
Power play
Firm adults
Time to solve problems
Visual guidance