

What About Those Boys?

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Boys and Girls Differences:

I. Details:

- Girls' brains often receive more details than boys.
- Boys often see the whole but not always the details

II. Brain Development:

- Girls' Brains often mature earlier.
- Boys can be 12 to 18 months behind developmentally
- Questions to ask ourselves:
Are you using curriculum that supports boys' developmental level?
Are we using appropriate assessments based on boys' developmental level not chronological age?

Frontal Lobe

- A boy's brain often develops from the back (the doing part) towards the front (the thinking part)
- Girl's brains often develop more from the front to back.
- So boys often develop motor skills, their physical abilities, before they start to think about them. (Moir)

III. Corpus Callosum

- Much learning goes through the Corpus Callosum
- Girls' Corpus often is larger (Gur)
- If a boy has a smaller Corpus then: *he might not care the same way.... he might not use his words to describe feelings.... and he might hurt others more*
- Boys often do not talk about their feelings

- Help boys develop empathy by demonstrating with physical action “*run and get the ice*”
- Girls need to talk and share about their feelings

IV. Pause State

- Girls’ brains are usually always “on”
- Boys’ brains often go into pause state after completing one task
- Most Common Pause Breakers, *using loud voices, spinning, running, jumping and clapping*

V. Noise Level

- Boys often respond better to loud voices
- Boys actually hear less from the left ear
- If boys respond to loud voices, Why are we always saying “use your inside voice”.

VI. Communication Patterns

- Communication Patterns for boys are: 55% facial, 38% voice tone, 7% words alone
- Communication Patterns for girls are: 28% facial, 18% voice tone, 54% words alone
- Girls by 5 years of age may have 5 – 7,000 words
- Boys by 5 years of age may have 3 – 5,000 words
- 67% of boys are visual learners
- 71% of girls are auditory learners
- Girls use words as soon as they hear them “rare words”
- Boys use action connected to words
- Girls learn often sounding out the letters in a word
- Boys learn often by connecting pictures to the word

VII. Testosterone Spikes

- Boys can have 2-10 spikes a day depending on age
- Girls usually have 2 spikes a day
- Boys spikes are more common in the morning
- Girls spikes are more common in late afternoon or evening
- Boys release physical tension during a spike
- Boys react with energy or erections or both

Environmental Supports for Boys

What do Boys Need?

- A variety of movable objects
- Lots of space to move
- Visual routines
- Lower temperatures
- Roughhousing
- Running
- Power play
- Boxes for kicking
- Books they can relate to
- Environments that allow them to be louder

Bring Back Roughhousing:

Red Rover, Red Rover
London Bridge
Pirates and other Super Hero Play
Billy Goat Gruff
Boxes for kicking and hitting
Capes
Tug of War

Benefits of Superhero Play:

Try on power on both sides
Handle fears
Develop problem-solving skills
Develops language skills
Supports physical development

Books for Boys:

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More, Karen Beaumont
My Life With a Wave, Karen Cowan
Belly Button Boy, Ted Maloney
Tough Boris, Mem Fox
Perry Poops, Pittau
The Story of the Mole in Search of Who Done it, Werner Holzwarth

Songs/Fingerplays:

Chris is his Name

Chris is his name and pushing is his game.
You can catch him pushing in the sun and rain.
He is pushing high, and pushing low.
He is pushing, pushing, wherever he goes.
So if you want some pushing and you don't know what to do.
Just go ask Chris and he'll help you.

Baby Shark

Baby shark, doot, doot, doot, doot
Baby shark, doot -----
Mama shark, doot, doot, doot, doot,
Mama shark, doot -----
Daddy shark, -----
Daddy shark -----
Grandpa shark -----
Grandpa shark -----
Sharks swim -----
Sharks swim -----
Sharks attack -----
Sharks attack -----

Pirate Song

When I was one, I had some fun
On the day I went to sea.
I jumped aboard a Pirate ship
And the captain said to me.
Go this way, and that way
Forwards and backwards
Over the deep blue sea.

Resources:

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