

Any of these sound familiar?

- The papers are full of stories about how boys don't do as well in tests as girls do.
- Teachers say boys aren't as interested in reading as girls.
- Teachers often say boys aren't as organized as girls.
- Teachers say that boys are often let down by their writing skills.
- Boys sometimes say "I don't need to work hard- I know it all anyway" or "I'll catch up later."
- Boys sometimes get bullied by other boys simply because they work hard.

Yes? So what can we do about it?

Parents working hand in hand with our KD English department can really help!

Let's hear it for the Boys



How to help...

1. Give lots of encouragement to boost confidence.

2. If your son has a reading habit, encourage it. If not, do your best to help him develop one. You could ask his teacher's advice. Seeing other males in the house reading can also help.

3. Guide him towards out of school activities that he will not only enjoy but also at which he can succeed.

4. Give him more responsibilities around the house and don't do everything for him!

5. Try to create some opportunities for learning at home by discussing the news or TV programmes.

6. Persuade him that talking over problems is best, as it can help release tension and anger.

7. Check his student planner regularly.

8. Make sure he has a list of things he needs for school each day...and make sure he gets himself properly organised in time. "Planning and preparation help prevent poor performance."

9. Contact school immediately if you feel your son might be under pressure from others not to work.

10. Good male role models can play a significant part in boys' education e.g. by reading to them, giving help with work at home or even by helping out at school.

11. Other learners in the house can be used as good examples.

12. Make sure he has enough sleep.

13. Reassure him that it's okay to express his feelings- in fact positively encourage it!

14. Talk to his teacher whenever you are concerned.

15. Have your own system of rewards at home for good work and behaviour.

16. Limit leisure time spent in front of screens.

17. When he starts to be given homework, get into the habit of making sure that he does it on the night it is set... preferably as soon as he gets home...and definitely without the TV on.

18. Show interest in his day at school.

