



Boys' Learning
Research group on men and their families.



ARTICLE



LEARNING HAS NEVER
BEEN SO EASY



SCHOOL MADE EASY
ARTICLES

WHAT BOYS DISLIKE ABOUT SCHOOL

A good quick tool for teachers and parents.

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WHY DO MANY BOYS DISLIKE SCHOOL?

Gary Wilson in Huddersfield, York, UK found that many boys disliked school because:

- They wanted to be outdoors
- They wanted to be ACTIVE, doing, seeking – not sitting down
- Their concentration waned- they were bored with much schoolwork
- They couldn't stay on task
- They didn't see the need for consistent effort
- They couldn't be bothered being neat
- They wanted to please their teacher in year 1 but by Year 6 and up- they wanted to please their mates
- Reading seemed a girly thing -or at least not male.

Boys interviewed by West said that they liked being at school to play sport and be with their mates. Apart from this, **most boys felt school was a complete waste of time. Teachers constantly told them 'shut up, sit still, write this down.'**

ASK BOYS what they like and dislike about school. Get ready for some hard truths. Remember what I say- 'I don't mind lies. It's the truth that hurts'.



SO HOW DO WE GET BOYS MORE INVOLVED?

- Share reading between strong boy readers and other boy readers
- Give boys responsibility for : running tuckshop, badges, almost any job
- Peer tutoring and paired writing
- Break down bullying and harassment
- Pair boys and girls for mutual learning
- Bring in older males to read and mentor
- Check that what boys read reflect their interests as well as girls
- Ask girls to help ensure that school reflects boys and girls' needs
- Present work as a challenge
- Make learning manageable by 'chunking'
- Keep parents involved all the time
- Build up boys confidence in themselves as learners
- Listen to boys' ideas and use them



These ideas were first written up by Gary Wilson and interpreted by Peter West for Australian teachers. Please don't use without acknowledgement.



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