

Boys and Reading

Dear Parents & Guardians:

I am writing to share some information about boys and reading that I thought might be of interest to you who are raising a boy. Whether he struggles to read or absolutely loves books, the following insights may be helpful to you.

One of the biggest reasons boys often don't connect with books, experts say, is because the subject matter doesn't resonate with them so they lose focus. Boys have trouble reading when they don't get to read for a purpose that makes any sense to them. So they turn off to all readings. Boys also tend to develop more slowly than girls and prefer action to the emotions and feelings found in a lot of books.

So what can be done to help boys become stronger readers? Here are some ideas:

- **Go slowly – it is okay to let boys read books below grade level.**
- **Give them choice. Select books that are more information-based rather than narrative. They should also be about topics or stories boys will find interesting.**
- **Read with them – Listening to things being read encourages boys to read.**
- **To boost confidence, ask your boy to read aloud. (But be sure not to interrupt or correct him too frequently).**
- **Encourage additional time for silent reading periods; this promotes the independent development of skills and your boy's enjoyment of reading.**

I hope you find this information to be helpful. For additional resources and suggested books, you can also visit the following web sites: www.guysread.com and <http://school.familyeducation.com/reading/fiction/37734>. When parents participate in their children's education, they are helping them to succeed not only in school but in their lives beyond the classroom.

Sincerely,

Leonor Sebastia
Regional Vice President
Mountain Region