

RAISING READERS NEWSLETTER

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What Does the Research Say About Male Students?

- Males are on average 1.5 years behind females in reading and writing abilities.
- The male brain relies on spatial, mechanical stimulation (diagrams, pictures, moving objects through space) to help it comprehend.
- Males are better (in general) at kinesthetic and visual tasks than females.
- The more words a teacher or parent uses, the more likely boys are to “zone out” or go into a rest state.
- Nearly fifty percent of males describe themselves as “non-readers” by the time they reach high school.
- Males will read on their own, but many are drawn to comic books, graphic novels, newspapers, magazines, books about hobbies and sports, science fiction, joke books or humorous books and fantasy novels.
- Males do best when they are allowed to talk about their ideas before they commit them to paper.

This month's source is *The Minds of Boys: Saving Our Sons from Falling Behind in School and Life* by Michael Gurian



Best Practices and Strategies for Success

- Have the right “stuff”; offer lots of choices that will appeal to males.
- Build reading time into your daily schedule at school and at home; teachers should allow discussion in small groups; parents should discuss what students read.
- Read **aloud** to students both at home and at school.
- Allow students to create short scripts of chapters and use them to act out the book.
- Make sure directions are short, clear, and are written down.

Quick Tips:

- Have time limits on assignments.
- Graphic organizers work especially well for males.
- Males like to share experiences using technology.
- Provide examples of expectations.

Try it Now:

- **Have students nominate players for a fictional “dream team” by having them read about their favorite players and make a case for why these players should be on the team.**
- **Give several different choices to students when asking them to prove they read. Consider allowing students to illustrate what they've read as one.**