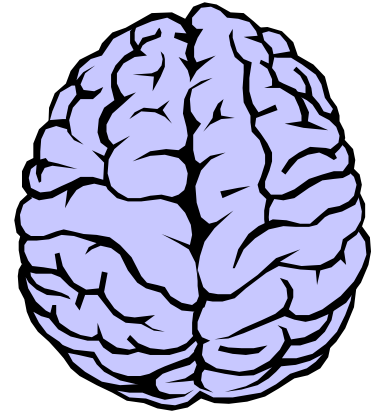


Boys will be Boys...
Girls will be Girls...
It's NOT a Choice!



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How does it work?

- Girls blood flow moves from the left side to the top of the brain
 - Where complex thought occurs
- Boys blood flow moves from the right side down to the brain stem
 - Fight or flight area of the brain
- Never at Rest
 - A clear learning advantage
- "Task Focus"
 - Only concerned about task at hand

Girls are so emotional!

Guess what...Boys can be too!

- Boys require a longer time period to process emotion
 - The disadvantage being missed learning opportunities
 - More emotionally fragile than girls
- Girls collect and process emotional stimulants quicker
 - They are able to discuss their emotions and work through them
 - Easily overwhelmed by the amount

Brain based differences in boys and girls

- Boys tend to have an advantage in their left hemisphere of their brains.
- The left hemisphere helps them recall facts and rules and categorize.
- Boys strengths in their right hemisphere encompass visual-spatial and visual-motor skills.
- These strengths typically allow boys to excel in geography, science, and math.

- Girls advantage in the left hemisphere of the brain are having strengths in early grades with speaking, reading, and writing.
- Their right hemisphere allows them to feel empathy and understand and reflect the feelings of their peers and teachers.
- These strengths are in general terms. Of course there are girls and boys that have strengths that would typically be considered a strength for the other gender.

The classroom...

- The classroom has increasingly become more feminized over the years.
- This has happened because of the “progressive” practices that seem to favor girls.
- Some examples are: cooperative learning groups, feminized literature, personal essays, whole language, and medicalization of normal boy behaviors.

The classroom...

- The early elementary school curriculum is putting boys at a learning disadvantages.
- Most schools curriculum emphasizes left brain cognitive skills (speaking, reading, and writing abilities) that develop at a slower rate in boys.

There is a difference...

Female learning characteristics

- Brain has more cortical areas devoted to verbal emotive processing - they show more empathy to others
- Have more P ganglion cells for vision which detect color and finer sensory movement
- Have more active prefrontal cortex than males and frontal lobes develop faster (areas responsible for reading, writing, speech)
- When brain is in a rest states more areas stay active
- Brains have more communication between the hemispheres of the brain. Females have the ability to multitask better.
- Seen as less competitive than males
- Girls are more critical of their performance in school
- Girls tend to focus on pleasing others

Some male learning characteristics are

- More areas in the brain for spatial reasoning
- Have more type M ganglion cells in their visual system. These cells detect movement.
- Male brain enters a rest state several times a day. Often during these rest states in order to stay alert boys may fidget or act out.
- Are seen as more **aggressive** and **impulsive** than girls
- Engage in "aggression nurturance" or rough housing and insults with other males
- Take more time than girls to transition between activities and/or topics

- Feel less compelled to comply with the orders of teachers
- Boys have fewer social skills and lower literacy skills entering school.
- Boys excel in math, geography and science
- Boys get asked more complex questions in the classroom.
- Boys often get more attention from the teacher in class. It often is not positive.
- Boys receive stricter punishment than girls for the same or similar offenses.

- Boys are less likely to worry about pleasing others
- Boys seem to overestimate their ability to achieve
- Boys are making failing grades more often and labeled as having learning disabilities.
- Boys perform below girls on reading and writing on standardized testing.
- Boys have more learning and/or developmental delays and problems with attention and communicating with others.

Bright Beginnings for Boys by D. Zambo & W. Brozo
Pomerantz, Alterman and Saxon (2002)
Ready, LoGerfo, Burkam and Lee (2005)
Connell and Gunzelmann, 2004
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

7 Key Values that Should be Taught...

- Cooperation
- Courage
- Generosity
- Honesty
- Perseverance
- Responsibility
- Tolerance

Reading Tips...

- Intensity ("stand out" characteristics - props, pop-ups, large books,)
- Size and Shape (gain attention)
- Novelty ("same old" book/reader - seen as boring)
- Challenge (create confusion, disequilibrium...does this make sense?)
- Difficulty (hard...but not too hard)
- Anticipation (surprise)

Create Book Center Activities

- ---
- ---
- ---
- ---

Create Vocabulary Center Activities

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____