

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

Program Name	Link	Program Details	Benefits
The Kagan Cooperative	<a href="http://www.kaganaustralia.com.au/">http://www.kaganaustralia.com.au/</a> Australia Wide	Kagan Australia helps teachers develop necessary skills to keep children engaged in the classroom. The Kagan philosophy centres around the idea of active engagement as well as cooperative learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated learning</li> <li>- Cooperative classroom learning</li> <li>- Increased Engagement</li> </ul>
Grandparents program	Idea from Facebook Post	Grandfather takes group of boys and some girls and completes small projects around the school. Embeds curriculum learning within	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improves pride and sense of achievement</li> <li>- Creates family ties</li> <li>- Enhances children's sense of belonging and wellbeing</li> </ul>
Make my teacher lunch day	Idea from the Facebook Post	Each week a student is drawn from a hat to make the teacher lunch. Teacher provides dessert (and shows off his cooking skills - these kids get some great sweets!). Student can bring one friend to lunch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building better relationships with students</li> <li>- Connecting with families through discussions on the different types of food the students bring in</li> <li>- Positive effect on the class behaviour and attitude</li> </ul>
Achieve Anything Academy	<a href="http://www.invincibleworldwide.com/school-programs/">http://www.invincibleworldwide.com/school-programs/</a> Australia wide	The Achieve Anything Academy is built upon the Japanese concept <i>Kiazen</i> , which means to constantly rise up to new levels. This program works to challenge all people to become their best self. It combines mental, physical and social aspects of learning to engage students. This is achieved through a combination of building leadership skills and martial arts programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holistic approach to engagement</li> <li>- The Martial Arts aspect is especially good for boys as it teaches many life lessons such as patience and discipline whilst also channelling a physical outlet.</li> <li>- Empowering and Inspiring</li> <li>- Very Physical</li> </ul>

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

<p>Clontarf for indigenous boys.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.clontarf.org.au/">http://www.clontarf.org.au/</a></p> <p>Australia Wide</p>	<p>Exists to improve education standards, life skills and goals for young aboriginal men. Main goals are to build self-esteem and provide opportunity. Clontarf use sport such as AFL and Rugby League training to obtain their goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides young aboriginal boys in a healthy outlet for their energy</li> <li>- Provides a community of boys with similar goals.</li> <li>- Promotes self esteem</li> <li>- Increases education standards</li> </ul>
<p>The Rites of Passage Institute (Dr Arne Rubinstein)</p>	<p><a href="https://ritesofpassageinstitute.org/">https://ritesofpassageinstitute.org/</a></p> <p>Internation</p>	<p>Through the Rites of Passage Institute, Dr Arne Rubinstein runs Father/Son breakfasts and Rites of Passage programs in schools around Australia. He also hosts Rites of Passage camps for teenage boys and Little Warriors father (or father figure) / son camps for boys aged 7-11 to at his stunning property in the Byron Hinterland. His Institute also runs leadership training programs for people interested in facilitating their own programs. He is the author of <i>The Making of Men</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bringing out the best in boys and celebrating them becoming young men</li> <li>- Promoting strong, healthy relationships &amp; a support network</li> <li>- Encourages boys to have a vision for the future</li> <li>- Bringing rites of passage rituals into mainstream culture.</li> </ul>
<p>Pathways Foundation</p>	<p><a href="http://www.pathwaysfoundation.com.au/">http://www.pathwaysfoundation.com.au/</a></p> <p>National</p>	<p>The Pathways Foundation is a National harm prevention charity that assists young people make the fundamental emotional shift from being a child to becoming a young adult. The way Pathways does this is by providing contemporary, community based Rites of Passage for boys 13-15 years old called Pathways to Manhood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Builds confident communication and social skills,</li> <li>- Creates stronger more supportive father relationships,</li> <li>- Increases respect for women,</li> <li>- Gives more motivation to set goals and finish school and give back to the community.</li> </ul>

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

<p>The Rite Journey (Andrew Lines)</p>	<p><a href="http://theritejourney.com/">http://theritejourney.com/</a>  Australia Wide</p>	<p>The Rite Journey Program strives to help young and adolescent children become self aware, responsible, resilient and independent adults. This program focuses on helping children find a healthy passage into adulthood by rebuilding traditional rites of passage in a cooperative manor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helps create a healthy passage from adolescence to adulthood</li> <li>- Promotes self awareness and strength of the mind</li> </ul>
<p>Fun friends program</p>	<p><a href="http://www.pathwayshrc.com.au/fun-friends-4-7-years/">http://www.pathwayshrc.com.au/fun-friends-4-7-years/</a></p>	<p>The Fun Friends Program is directed towards children aged 4-7 and works to nurture development in all core areas. This program is based around cooperative learning. Fun Friends works on social skills such as eye contact, using a brave and confident voice, emotional intelligence, making friends and more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helps to build the foundations needed for basic social engagement</li> <li>- Specifically directed towards the early years</li> <li>- Makes learning fun and goals achievable.</li> </ul>
<p>Holyoake Drumbeat program</p>	<p><a href="http://www.holyoake.org.au/drumbeat">http://www.holyoake.org.au/drumbeat</a>  Australia wide.</p>	<p>The Holyoake Drumbeat Program teaches social skills, resilience and the importance of positive relationships through the use of African Djembe drums. This program flexible in its use and caters for the differing needs of students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helps students to enhance their social skills</li> <li>- Requires students to be actively involved and engaged in the program</li> <li>- Uses music to transcend cultural barriers</li> </ul>
<p>Classcraft</p>	<p><a href="http://www.classcraft.com">www.classcraft.com</a>  Based in the Canada and the United States  Available online.</p>	<p>Classcraft is a program, which has been developed to engage students through the use of technology and gaming. Classcraft combines gaming with real life circumstances to provide an engaging and cooperative classroom. This program can be run for a semester or a whole school year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperative learning</li> <li>- Engaging</li> <li>- Inclusive of students who's interests lay in gaming or technology</li> </ul>

<p>Pathways to Resilience Foundation</p>	<p><a href="http://pathwaystorresilience.org/">http://pathwaystorresilience.org/</a></p> <p>Based in Queensland</p>	<p>This program strives to achieve resilience in families, children and communities. The organisation works to help at risk groups by introducing a common language of wellbeing at schools. This program provides training and professional development as well as coaching and mentoring facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cohesive learning through community</li> <li>- Helps to build strong relationships</li> <li>- Helps at risk children</li> <li>- Prevents disengagement</li> </ul>
<p>Catalyst Program</p>	<p><a href="https://www.ggs.wa.edu.au/learning/senior-school/years-7-9/">https://www.ggs.wa.edu.au/learning/senior-school/years-7-9/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.ggs.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Catalyst-Handbook-2023-Mk6-WEB.pdf">https://www.ggs.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Catalyst-Handbook-2023-Mk6-WEB.pdf</a></p> <p>Guilford Grammar WA</p>	<p>Catalyst presents the great idea of developing a timetable, which is based around student interest. This program is directed at boys in year 7-9 and allows for teachers to embrace their interests and work them into the curriculum. This is a great way to ensure engagement!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lessons are all centred around interest which leads to a more engaging class</li> <li>- This will create a cooperative class in which students feel excited to learn!</li> </ul>
<p>Katajin</p>	<p><a href="https://www.wesley.wa.edu.au/about/our-schools/katitjin/">https://www.wesley.wa.edu.au/about/our-schools/katitjin/</a></p> <p>Wesley College</p>	<p>Katitjin is a Noongar term meaning “to listen and learn”. The Katitjin program embraces the fact that boys go through a number of changes through adolescence, which affects their motivation and engagement levels. This program focuses on teaching life skills such as self-awareness, working in teams, leadership, engagement in the community and more. There are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acknowledgement of boyhood struggles</li> <li>- Helps to build needed social skills</li> <li>- Camps are great for leadership</li> <li>- Helps to build strong and healthy relationships</li> </ul>

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

	WA	camps associated with the Katitjin program, which allow boys an outlet into the great outdoors.	
Rock and Water Program	<a href="http://www.rockandwatertraining.com.au">www.rockandwatertraining.com.au</a>  Based in Queensland, but offered Australia wide	The Rock and Water Program is a program that was developed in the Netherlands in response to the increasing amount of disengagement of boys and increased amount of drug abuse, alcohol abuse and violence including increased amounts of bullying. The Rock and Water program focuses on strengthening the mind, body and spirit. This is a holistic approach to engagement and has been adopted by many educators in Australia and the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addresses real life problems</li> <li>- Helps to create a strong being in mind and body</li> <li>- Addresses disengagement</li> </ul>
Pattern Bandits	Logan Art Gallery  <a href="https://www.mustdobrisbane.com/arc-hives/jemima-wyman-pattern-bandits-logan-art-gallery">https://www.mustdobrisbane.com/arc-hives/jemima-wyman-pattern-bandits-logan-art-gallery</a>	This was an interactive art display created by Jemima Wyman. It promoted problem solving and creativity among young children. Through her instillation Jemima Wyman was able to share her love of patterns with young children through interactive multimodal artworks. This art instillation is no longer operating however it could be worth asking around at local exhibitions to see if the artists are willing to discuss their works with children!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Problem solving</li> <li>- Creative outlet</li> <li>- Allows boys to be hands on and creative without the pressure from their peers to “be cool”.</li> <li>- Helps to connect our young ones with the community</li> <li>- Is available for all ages</li> </ul>
Mindful works	<a href="https://mindfulworks.com.au/">https://mindfulworks.com.au/</a>  Based in Queensland	Mindful Works is an educational organisation that offers retreats, workshops, courses and more to teachers, students, schools, healthcare professionals, businesses and individuals. Mindful Works organisation teaches the practice of mindfulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides the option of relaxation</li> <li>- Promotes resilience through</li> </ul>

<p>The “Casetta Storica” (Little House of History)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.boldpark.com/about/group/casetta-storica-little-house-history/">http://www.boldpark.com/about/group/casetta-storica-little-house-history/</a></p> <p>Bold Park Community School</p> <p>WA</p>	<p>The Casetta Project was run out of Bold Park Community School. This project integrated learning in all core areas by a means of hands on experiences. This included the children’s consultation with architects, working “on the tools” with builders/roofers/electricians and a solar energy consultant. Everyone was required to use correct use of building terminology on site and there was a rotation of occupations so everyone had input in every responsibility on site. Although this is a past project it is a good idea for future projects and can be instigated in any school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives children a view of other occupations</li> <li>- Provides hands on learning</li> <li>- Builds connection with the local community members and organisations</li> <li>- Gives children insights into how things work</li> </ul>
<p>Creative Moves</p>	<p><a href="http://www.creativemoveswa.com.au">www.creativemoveswa.com.au</a></p> <p>WA</p>	<p>Creative Moves is a Western Australian program that engages children through the movement of dance. This program offers boys the chance to be creative in their movement whilst also practicing discipline. This is a great program for all ages as it challenges gross motor skills for the youngsters and is a creative outlet for older children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides a creative outlet for adolescent boys</li> <li>- Very physical</li> <li>- Can be adapted to all ages</li> <li>- Works with curriculum</li> </ul>
<p>6 seconds</p>	<p><a href="http://www.6seconds.org">www.6seconds.org</a></p> <p>Internet Based</p>	<p>6seconds organisation supports the development of emotional intelligence. This program is for all ages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of emotional intelligence</li> <li>- Cohesive learning structure</li> </ul>
<p>Sparkling Life</p>	<p><a href="http://www.sparkinglife.org/">http://www.sparkinglife.org/</a></p> <p>United States</p>	<p>Sparkling Life is a program, which promotes the addition of exercise to help with higher brain function. Sparking Life provides a lot of information on the importance of exercise in young boys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotes extensive physical activity</li> <li>- Good for boys as it lets them blow off steam</li> </ul>

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

8 ways	<a href="https://www.8ways.online/">https://www.8ways.online/</a>  Western Region and Parts of Sydney	The 8 Ways framework is about including and using Aboriginal perspectives in your teaching methods rather than in the teaching content. 8 Ways works to eliminate tokenistic cultural lessons by changing the way the lesson is presented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creates less segregation in the classroom</li> <li>- Incorporates aboriginal language and culture into each lesson</li> <li>- Engages all children</li> </ul>
The Brave Program	<a href="https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/">https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/</a>	An interactive online program developed by The University of Queensland and Beyond Blue for the prevention and treatment of child and adolescent anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free for parents and people who work with children and teens</li> <li>- Supports children and teens to overcome worries</li> </ul>

<p>Backtrack</p>	<p><a href="http://www.backtrack.org.au/">http://www.backtrack.org.au/</a></p> <p>Based in Armidale, NSW</p>	<p>Backtrack's mission is to offer young people who have lost their way an opportunity to reconnect with their education and training, to become work ready, find jobs, lead happy and productive lives and participate fully in the community. They offer 3 programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paws Up program uses dogs to connect youth with others, build trust &amp; learn self-discipline.</li> <li>- AgLads creates employment opportunities and support for youth in rural communities.</li> <li>- Links to Learning re-engages kids in Yrs 6-10 with their education, developing resilience and social skills.</li> </ul>
<p>Quality Circle Time</p>	<p><a href="http://www.circle-time.co.uk/">http://www.circle-time.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Based in UK but applicable in k-7</p>	<p>A model developed by Jenny Mosley for building schools that support the social and emotional learning of all students and staff. This shows a whole school approach from K-7 (search on YouTube for "Quality Circle Time Golden Model in Action - Watercliffe Meadow School 2015"</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPbhdKFzG9M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPbhdKFzG9M</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhances student communication, especially listening, problem-solving and cooperation</li> <li>- Boosts staff wellbeing</li> <li>- Encourages positive behaviour.</li> </ul>
<p>Gurian Institute</p>	<p><a href="http://www.gurianiinstitute.com">http://www.gurianiinstitute.com</a></p>	<p>The Gurian Institute in the US has a model school program which is worth taking a look at. Although US based there is some useful information on there. They also have books, downloads and online courses for educators interested in gender and education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professional learnings for educators based on the work of New York Times bestselling author, social philosopher and family counsellor Michael Gurian.</li> </ul>
<p>The Resilience Doughnut</p>	<p><a href="http://www.theresiliencedoughnut.com.au/">http://www.theresiliencedoughnut.com.au/</a></p>	<p>Another great resource to help build resilience in both children and teens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helps boys identify what is working</li> <li>- Can track progress each term (helps with goal setting)</li> </ul>



## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

The Fathering Project	<a href="http://www.thefatheringproject.org">http://www.thefatheringproject.org</a>  WA based	The Fathering Project's Schools' Program aims to positively promote the important role of fathers, and father figures, to the entire school community through the formation of a "Champion" Dads' group, or Fathering Project School Group (FPSG).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Builds social interaction, knowledge and skills</li> <li>- Brings male role models into school community</li> <li>- Relaxed, informal and fun</li> </ul>
Family Action Centre	University of Newcastle  <a href="#">Online resources</a>	The FAC is a research, teaching and practice centre focused on families and their community. They have some fantastic resources on their website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular 'Boys in Schools Bulletins'</li> <li>- Resources on fathering, Indigenous fathers, education and building resilience</li> </ul>
Taree TAFE Digital media class	<a href="http://www.bit.ly/tafeshowcase">www.bit.ly/tafeshowcase</a>	Check out this site to see how a TAFE teacher came up with the idea to (in the words of the students) "gamify our classroom giving it a competitive, yet unified environment."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "...Aims to increase motivation and engagement in class activities, attendance and confidence to continue learning " – Natalie Denmeade (teacher)</li> </ul>

## **IMPROVING LITERACY & NUMERACY ESPECIALLY FOR BOYS**

The Reading Thing	<a href="http://thatreadingthing.com/">http://thatreadingthing.com/</a>	Run by teen literacy expert Tricia Millar, this program claims to build skills knowledge and confidence in hours rather than years. TRT has been evaluated by Professor Greg Brooks, and is in the most recent edition of "What works for children & young people with literacy difficulties" and is recommended by the Dyslexia SpLD Trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offers dignified and age-appropriate literacy support</li> <li>- Incorporates inside or outside education systems</li> <li>- Has been used in small and large organisations, schools, colleges, youth offending services and national charities.</li> </ul>
-------------------	---	--	--

Walker Learning Approach	<a href="https://earlylife.com.au/walker-learning/">https://earlylife.com.au/walker-learning/</a>  Australia Wide and International	Walker Learning Approach is designed for children 0-14. This program embraces the need for maths and literacy teaching but embeds the lessons with child interest and real life practicality. This approach makes learning meaningful and culturally diverse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative thinking</li> <li>- Critical thinking</li> <li>- Problem-solving</li> <li>- Engagement from interest</li> </ul>
Mad Libs	<a href="http://www.madlibs.com">www.madlibs.com</a>	Mad Libs is a word game in which participants fill in the blanks to create a story... the site features books (based on popular programs, comics, etc. such as Archie, Adventure Time, Star Wars, etc.), a board game, card games and a hugely popular App that's been downloaded 6 million times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bright, fun and engaging</li> <li>- Fun way to increase vocabulary/improve spelling</li> <li>- Good for individuals and families</li> </ul>
Spelfabet	<a href="http://www.spelfabet.com.au">http://www.spelfabet.com.au</a>  National	Developed by a speech pathologist this site provides resources to teach systematic synthetic phonics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides phonics material that is relevant to older children and teenagers</li> <li>- Downloadable resources for schools and parents</li> </ul>
Cumquatmay	<a href="http://www.cumquatmay.com.au/">http://www.cumquatmay.com.au/</a>	Home to the Rip Rap series of novels by Judy Keen, for students in grades 4 to 9 with lower than average reading ability. The novels are designed to look like and they cover similar content to the novels that peers with regular reading ability would be reading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rebuilds confidence</li> <li>- Helps with foundation reading skills</li> <li>- Topics develop in complexity and relevance according to age</li> <li>- Has associated teacher manual</li> </ul>
TRUGS – Teaching Read Using Games	<a href="http://www.readsuccessfully.com">www.readsuccessfully.com</a>	Systematic synthetic phonics reading games to improving literacy and boost vocabulary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fun way to practise reading and spelling</li> <li>- Can be used at home and school to consolidate learning</li> <li>- Also develop skills in turn taking, language and memory</li> </ul>

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

Story Dogs	<a href="http://www.storydogs.org.au">http://www.storydogs.org.au</a>	Based on the successful American literacy program Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R. E. A.D) Story Dogs gets Australian children and young adolescents reading one-on-one to dogs. Sessions facilitated by the dog's handler who is trained to teach emergent readers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fun, non-threatening way to practise reading aloud to a non-judgmental audience</li> <li>- Dogs promote relaxation and allow children to read at their own pace</li> </ul>
LiteracyPlanet	<a href="http://www.literacyplanet.com">http://www.literacyplanet.com</a>	Fun and engaging Australian program designed to boost literacy through games, and aligned with the Australian curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uses 'quest-style' pathway which boys may enjoy</li> <li>- Socially safe way to play with multiplayer in a competitive format</li> <li>- Students can also work at their own pace.</li> </ul>
Maths Through Movement	WA based but online purchase available (releasing Term 2, 2016)  <a href="https://creativemoveswa.com.au/maths-through-movement/">https://creativemoveswa.com.au/maths-through-movement/</a>	This teacher resource program combines the Maths and Dance syllabus to teach students maths concepts through movement and embodiment. The resource is designed for generalist teachers without dance experience. Read more here: <a href="http://dancemagazine.com.au/2016/02/20291/">http://dancemagazine.com.au/2016/02/20291/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suits kinaesthetic learners</li> <li>- Engages students through movement instead of worksheets</li> <li>- Suits students challenged by sitting still and concentrating</li> </ul>
Luka Lesson	<a href="http://www.youngaus.com.au/images/LUKA2016.pdf">http://www.youngaus.com.au/images/LUKA2016.pdf</a>  Australian spoken word music artist	Luka Lesson is a young Australian poet of Greek origin and an educator who runs workshops in schools (Years 5-12) to inspire students of any ability level to write and perform poetry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uses role model to stimulate interest in words</li> <li>- Has worked with students of many backgrounds to encourage them to write and perform their work, many for the first time.</li> </ul>
Kahn Academy	<a href="https://www.khanacademy.org/">https://www.khanacademy.org/</a>	Kahn Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos to help learners outside the classroom. They cover a huge range of subjects: maths, science, computer programming, history, art history, economics, and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Step by step videos demonstrating concepts</li> <li>- Practice exercises</li> </ul>

		<p>Their maths program runs from kindy level to university level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students can have a personalised learning dashboard to track their progress and interests</li> <li>- Totally free and international.</li> </ul>
<p>Mathletics, Education Perfect, Kahoot</p>	<p><a href="http://au.mathletics.com/home">http://au.mathletics.com/home</a></p>	<p>Janine Webb from Wesley College in WA says in <a href="#">a blog</a> on the college website: “If we use boys’ interest in technology as an element of their learning we can see positive outcomes.” For example, sites such as Mathletics, Language Perfect and Kahoot are very popular with boys. On these sites, there is competition in the learning. Boys love the idea of the leaderboards and awards. Some educators call this the ‘gamification of learning’ and, in its place, it can be an effective tool.</p>	<p>Mathletics: aligned with Australian curriculum, can appeal to boys’ competitive nature...</p> <p>Education Perfect: allows daily learning, revision, assessment.. covers languages, English, maths, science and humanities</p> <p>Kahoot: Free game-based learning platform teachers can use with students</p>
<p>Nutmegz Education (Perth)</p>	<p><a href="https://nutmegz.com.au/">https://nutmegz.com.au/</a></p>	<p>Provides sustainability-based programmes and incursions to Early Education and Care Settings across Perth.</p> <p>Workshops include worm farming, composting, edible gardens, woodwork, garden art, diy eco cleaning, diy room sprays, waste management, looseparts, diy paper</p> <p>They also offer youtube video education on things like worm farming, what is earth hour and more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Totally tailored</li> <li>- Super affordable</li> <li>- Engaging &amp; interactive</li> <li>- Earth-focused</li> <li>- Holistically educational</li> </ul> <p>Incursions are flexible, adaptable, and completely tailored to the ECH centre or class room.</p>
<p>Hale School - “Exmouth Adventure” for boys (WA)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.hale.wa.edu.au/year-9-experience/">https://www.hale.wa.edu.au/year-9-experience/</a></p>	<p>This year 9 program for boys focuses on students’ character development through specially curated discussions, activities and events.</p> <p>A highlight of the year is the Exmouth camp, which includes outdoor and expedition activities, distance learning with environmental agencies and local authorities, and online learning with teachers at the Hale School campus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provide students with engaging learning experiences that help them to understand themselves, connect with others and build character. Some topics explored include self-awareness, integrity, empathy, collaboration, creativity, embracing</li> </ul>

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

		<p>It has also just introduced an integrated and holistic wellbeing program (the 'Hale Journey') that is research based and covers social, emotional, spiritual, physical and academic wellbeing.</p>	<p>challenge, respect, resilience, and sportsmanship.</p>
<p>Top Blokes Foundation (Sydney)</p>	<p><a href="https://www.topblokes.org.au/">https://www.topblokes.org.au/</a></p>	<p>Top Blokes Foundation work with groups of boys and young men over 3 to 6 months to increase their resilience, empathy, and respect for self and others, and in doing so work to reduce the rates of suicides, mental health issues, antisocial and risk-taking behaviours.</p> <p>Our preventative, evidence-based group mentoring programs are delivered by qualified and experienced youth workers and have been developed especially to engage and educate boys and young men.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop boys critical-thinking and decision-making skills, as well as normalise a definition of masculinity beyond "strong" and "stoic" to improve young men's relationships with themselves and those around them.</li> </ul>
<p>Raise.Org</p>	<p><a href="https://www.raise.org.au/">https://www.raise.org.au/</a></p>	<p>Raise offers early intervention, evidence-based mentoring for young people in high schools with trained and trusted independent adults.</p>	

Mightier	<a href="https://www.mightier.com/">https://www.mightier.com/</a>	Mightier is a game based program that helps children build emotional strength. Developed by the Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical Schools, it's been great for helping my son connect how he is feeling with how his body reacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discover their innate ability to regulate emotions and calm down.</li> </ul>
Old Peoples home for teenagers (ABC TV program)	<a href="https://iview.abc.net.au/show/old-peoples-home-for-teenagers">https://iview.abc.net.au/show/old-peoples-home-for-teenagers</a>	In a compelling new intergenerational experiment, older adults are brought together with teenagers to see if the power of this intergenerational program can transform the lives of older people and teenagers amid an epidemic of loneliness.	
The Duke of Edinburgh Award	<a href="https://dukeofed.com.au/">https://dukeofed.com.au/</a>	The Award is a leading structured (non-formal education) youth development program, empowering all young Australians aged 14-24 to explore their full potential and find their purpose, passion and place in the world, regardless of their location or circumstance. The Award is a fully inclusive program and has no social, political, or religious affiliations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are equipped and empowered to achieve their personal best</li> <li>- Learn to take responsibility for their goals and choices</li> <li>- Become connected to and actively engaged within their immediate community</li> <li>- Make a real difference to society through their positive contributions and involvement</li> <li>- Learn to persevere and overcome barriers to success</li> <li>- Learn important life skills</li> <li>- Increase their career opportunities.</li> </ul>
Hands on Learning	<a href="https://handsonlearning.org.au/#whatwedo">https://handsonlearning.org.au/#whatwedo</a>	Hands on Learning is a <a href="#">Save the Children</a> practical school program that builds wellbeing, engagement, and attendance by creating opportunities for students to discover their talents and experience success through significant and authentic hands-on projects. Save the Children provides training and support for partner schools who become members of regional networks sharing ideas and inspiration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- attainment of lifelong social and emotional skills essential to realise potential</li> <li>- build confidence and community</li> <li>- Responsive to learners needs</li> <li>- fostering strong, caring and nurturing relationships</li> <li>- creating and sustaining an emotionally safe learning environment.</li> </ul>

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

Berry Street	<a href="https://www.berrystreet.org.au/learning-and-resources/berry-street-education-model">https://www.berrystreet.org.au/learning-and-resources/berry-street-education-model</a>	The Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) provides strategies that enables teachers to increase engagement of students with complex, unmet learning needs and to successfully improve all students' self-regulation, relationships, wellbeing, growth and academic achievement.	
Anna Bay Primary School Tennis Lessons program	<a href="https://www.news-ofthearea.com.au/anna-bay-public-school-senior-students-tennis-8-week-program-23965">https://www.news-ofthearea.com.au/anna-bay-public-school-senior-students-tennis-8-week-program-23965</a>	Had very low rates of attendance and teamed up with local tennis coaches and courts to implement free tennis lessons after school 2 days a week for kids that attended school regularly.	
reLATE	<a href="https://www.mackillopinstitute.org.au/programs/relate/">https://www.mackillopinstitute.org.au/programs/relate/</a>	Developed by the Mackillop Institute and empowers schools to create safe, supportive and predictable environments for enhanced teaching, learning and wellbeing.  Reframing Learning and Teaching Environments (ReLATE) is a research and evidence informed model supporting schools to create the preconditions for improved teaching, learning and wellbeing.	Strengthens staff understanding of how adverse childhood experiences and complex trauma can impact behaviours, attitude and learning.  Enhances the whole school culture and teacher attitudes including teacher perspectives and responses to student behaviour and disengagement. Amazing teacher training.
S.E.P.E.P (Sport education in physical education program)	<a href="http://2017socceryr10.weebly.com/sepep-explained.html">http://2017socceryr10.weebly.com/sepep-explained.html</a>	This program is constructed around a student centred approach to physical education. This is where teachers take a step back and allow their students to be accountable and to enhance their learning through establishing good working environments through working together and collaborate on the roles and responsibilities involved. The concept behind SEPEP is for students to experience a program that reflects the real world.	
Rite of Passage Initiative at	<a href="https://cths.nsw.edu.au/">https://cths.nsw.edu.au/</a>	Designed to help boys transition into being good at being a man. They utilise physical activity, poetry, camping, hiking and literature to help reveal virtues	

Cherrybrook Technology High School		that are hidden within the boys. (Richard.Pedley- <a href="mailto:Smith@det.nsw.edu.au">Smith@det.nsw.edu.au</a> )	
--	--	---	--

## Some Common-sense Tips for Engaging Boys From Those at the Coalface

In 2015, I put the call out to people in my Facebook village and via my newsletter community, seeking solutions to the increasing underachievement and disengagement of boys in our schools. I sought ideas, positive tips, projects or programs from anywhere in the world and many of those have been included in the list of programs above... here are some of our favourite tips that were shared.

**Classroom culture/guidelines** – rather than tell them what the rules are – remember boys like structure and rules – ask them what they would like in a positive classroom! Eg: No put downs, no shouting or shaming, work where ever you like as long as you don't bother anyone else, help others succeed, failure is normal part of learning. Then collate it as a class – and then they feel heard, consulted and a part of a team ... things that build belonging. So often they want what we want!

**Silent Sound signal** – often boys don't hear what we say as they are busy doing something else – using the silent sound signal, raising your hand and as each student notices your hand up they finish what they are saying and put their hand up... boys especially love this respectful way of getting their attention. Make sure you use this wisely!

**Be Interested and Available- SHOW ME YOU CARE!** This was probably one of my favourite tips from [Maggie], it is so common sense but doesn't happen enough! This point is so important. If we want kids to listen and pay attention to us, it needs to be reciprocal. Boys especially want to feel like you are there, your present and you really care what they think. **Engagement is a two way street!** Contact parents about successes as well as the challenges – this helps boys know you are fair.

*“Just want to say that the biggest thing with boys is gaining their trust.  
Once you have their respect, they will engage.”– Cenly Wong, Facebook user*

**Small gestures of kindness** – boys respond powerfully to being shown kindness – lolly rewards can work without ruining their lives and physical wellbeing because they happen only occasionally. The Minty moment award, the Chocolate frog award – especially to a boy who seldom hands work in and then does ... these rewards are given privately if possible. Written messages of encouragement can be very powerful – post-it notes stuck inside their homework diaries, on their assignments .....



## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

**Visual motivations** – have them create posters for the walls that are life affirming and inspirational. They do remind the unconscious mind of the importance of positive thinking, e.b. ‘I am enough exactly as I am.’ ‘I am-I can-I will!’ ‘The only real failure is when you stop trying!’ ‘Life is up to me!’ ‘Imagination is greater than intelligence.’

**Have favourite teacher affirmations** – that they hear often. Eg. ‘There are no bad kids – just good kids making poor choices.’ ‘All learning matters.’ ‘Every day in every way we get better and better.’ ‘Have you stoked your spark today?’ ‘Failure helps us to learn.’ ‘Have you used your Ps today? Passion. Practise. Persistence?’ and ‘I am the Captain of my own destiny!’

### **Physical Activity** –

This one is a must, regular exercise breaks throughout a lesson can really help to keep boys engaged! It also helps with brain development which means not only will they be able to concentrate longer but the content will be making more sense! Movement can be whole class ones or smaller ones for boys to do themselves – without distracting others!

Other movement ideas include alternate floor time and desk time. Brain break dances and incorporating ‘hands on’ tasks into all learning. Have lots of gross motor activities and fitness games in your teacher toolkit.

Proprioceptive and vestibular movement.

Movement - Brain breaks every hour. Standing on average you take in 60% more of what you are hearing if you are standing. Water 80% of students in classroom are dehydrated and while the brain is looking for water it struggles to think.

**Build rapport and relationships** - Come alongside them and know their interests outside of the school setting. For example, their, favourite sporting teams. This will help connect with what matters to them more broadly. When they know you their teacher doesn’t just care about how they go in their class but also in other areas of their life they ‘put up’ with the difficult or boring aspects of the class so much more. Students are so much more willing when teachers can engage in this way.

Relationships are at the core and without healthy respectful relationships from supportive and interested adults boys won’t thrive in any environment. These need to be in the home and at school, if parents and teachers work in partnership and we give our sons/students a voice and engage them in their learning. I disagree with comments that boys only need male teachers, female teachers can also bring a different and often more nurturing dimension to a boys classroom environment. As parents and teachers we need to celebrate our boys wins and successes and importantly pick our battles carefully.

**Passion Projects** - Also called Genius Hour, and Mystery Skypes where we had to guess where another class we were Skyping with was located through a game of 20 questions (Geography Edition). They rotated through various roles and got to work together to problem solve.

**Rethinking power needs** - 1. Offer choice, not orders. 2. Give responsibility. 3. Start with strengths 4. Express interest rather than praise. 5. Ask for their opinion 6. Ask for their help

**Art Therapy** - I have always integrated art skills and processes into my teaching and learning activities for my primary students. Specifically allowing 'boys' to be engaged in kinaesthetic learning opportunities where they are learning and engaging with their whole body is essential in engagement and opening up communication between peers and adults. I am currently trialling a program as a first in WA which integrates art skills and processes as a teaching and learning tool in the classroom with great success.

**Music** - Engaging in school based instrumental music or songwriting (such as hip hop or rap). Either individual or very small groups. Weekly sessions.

**Loose parts play** - Include more of this. It's collaborative, open ended play that encourages ideas, connection, communication and exploring boundaries.

**Later start times** - particularly in high school

**General ideas:** Teacher librarians, service learning, peer mentoring, multimodal teaching and learning

*"Let boys be boys. They have heaps of energy which needs to be burnt off before they can sit down and learn" – Joanne Glover, Facebook User*

**READ THIS:**

**FOR IDEAS ON CREATING SENSORY BREAKS & WAYS TO INCORPORATE ACTIVITY IN YOUR LESSONS:**

<http://lemonlimeadventures.com/sensory-break-ideas-for-kids/>

**Read:** - Patrick Ness's Chaos Walking trilogy is a fantastic start. Yes-it's violent in parts; yes it may seem foreign to you-but every boy (and Dad) I've gifted it to has loved it. If used properly, it can be a fantastic book leading to discussions about misogyny, homophobia, politics, war and community. I highly recommend that English and even history teachers look at it. It is an invaluable tool for book clubs as well. Please, steer clear of the movie-it's a stinker and in no way mirrors the book<<https://patrickness.com/book/the-knife-of-never-letting-go/>>

**Basing Lessons on Student Interest**– Basing lessons on interests of your students means that you are probably going to have to mix up your curriculum, be creative and innovative! Following student interest is a huge aspect of the Early Years Learning Framework. I think we should base more of our lessons on

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

this document!! *Remember RELEVANCE for boys – is this worth my time and energy?* Taking Maths into the real world – go measure a house, a playground, a wharf – then create a 3 D model of it. If doing traditional ballads like The Highwayman – have boys research swords, rapiers, etc.

*“I have found the world of education opens for boys in high school – my boys simply switched off to literacy and maths as it is taught in Australian primary schools – boys need hands on, experimenting, feeling they are pushing the boundaries, creating with their hands, learning visually, doing, doing, doing!”*

– Jenni Darwin, Facebook user

**Humour** – Humour makes boys feel safe and it triggers good brain chemicals. Just think about how much more engaged you are when something is funny! It’s the same for our kids, humour in a classroom will go a long way. Also don’t be afraid to be silly or make mistakes, it shows students that we’re only human and it will help to break down the barriers and build more trusting relationships. Have fun facts, fun quotes breaks!

*“For the years I have spent working in mental health with mostly male students I have found quite simply a good sense of humour is one of the quickest ways to build genuine rapport and break down boundaries.”- Ruth Elizabeth, Facebook User*

**Diet** – Diet is such a big factor when we talk about engagement. Your diet has the ability to control your motivation levels, energy levels and brain function!!! High sugar levels means big bursts of energy and then MEGA ENERGY DEPLETION. We need to give our boys a balance of good quality protein, good fats especially **Omega 3 essential fatty acids**, fruit and veges, with a bit of sugar on the side. Limiting empty kilojoules from high sugar drinks and junk food can improve a boy’s moods, behaviour and general well being.

**Practical Engagement** – Make lessons practical and hands on. I had so many comments of people saying how their boys learn better and are more engaged when the lessons are practical. I had some awesome comments saying that boys were able to practice mechanics, assembling and disassembling motors and cars, how cool is that!! It doesn’t always have to be like that, just making simple links in the class to how things apply in the real world can be enough sometimes.

*“Just want to say that the biggest thing with boys is gaining their trust. Once you have their respect, they will engage.”- Cenly Wong, Facebook user*

**Embrace the Environment** – A lot of you [Facebook users] have said that your boys are spending too much time on computers, well let's get them outside. Gardening is a great way to teach practical life skills in a hands on way. While technology is massively engaging, it stops boys moving and they need movement. Outside classes on verandahs, under trees and in the vege patch will improve boys attention noticeably!

*“Our school is in the early stages of having a gardening club...  
The boys we have in this group are so engaged its amazing.” – Kristie Rae Cananagh, Facebook User*

**Emotional Intelligence** – Let's teach our boys to understand how they're feeling. There are times when boys need to be able to pick themselves up, but there are also times when they just need some love, nurturing and care. Bullying is still such a huge problem and it stems from children who aren't in tuned with how they feel, or just aren't able to feel certain emotions. It's evident from the Facebook posts that this one often goes under the radar in school, but it's so important and needs our attention.

*“The single biggest factor of underachievement and disengagement stems from a frustration of being worthless.” – Graham Parkinson, Facebook User*

**Creating a flexible mindset** – Explore Dr Carol Dweck's work. Employ the 3Ps:

1. Passion
2. Practice
3. Persistence

Then have a target — Have boys set specific goals at the beginning of term or semester – to be able to write a 2 page essay, hand all work in on time, be better organised at home around homework – and meet with them for 'check ins' – How do you think you are doing? What could improve? What “P” could you do more of?

**Neurological aspects of learning** – Lessons are planned to factor in the neurological components for learning- set, boost dopamine, learn something within that 15minute window brain break, do it again. Brain breaks involve things we didn't think we could do but will learn if we practice, such as juggling, clapping game, brain gym or puzzles OR 1 minute calm using the breathing strategy of '7 in/hold 4/7 out'.

**WATCH THIS:**

**For fabulous ways to explore poetry/creative writing.**

**<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/5-powerful-spoken-word-videos-will-touch-soul/>**

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

**Encourage reading** – Margaret Menner has compiled a useful list of **10 Great Tips or Gimmicks for Shared Reading... found here at** <http://menner.com.au/free-stuff-10-gimmicks.html>

**Encourage comics** - Comics get boys (and girls) reading... whether its avengers, the phantom, Archie. Also classic literature in comic form is brilliant also and short stories e.g. Jeffrey Archer, a twist in the tale, Sherlock Holmes. These have helped different kids get reading over the years.

**Explore graphic organisers** – boys are often very visual and it can help them sort information. Venn diagrams, mind maps, accelerated learning techniques that boys can see help them learn.

### USE THIS:

Here are some great graphic organisers you can print and copy for classroom use: <https://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>

**Paired sharing** – this helps boys clarify their thoughts, what is required of a task or assessment and to work out strategies on how to get started. So many boys don't start a task because they are never sure what is wanted, so rather than start and fail, they avoid failing by not starting!

**Feedback** – give students opportunities to give written feedback on curriculum content after a topic has been completed. Look for suggestions on how it could be improved and what they liked the best and the least.

**Acts of service** – many schools take students out of school to help various charities, animal refuges or aged care facilities. Helping others is a great way to feel that we have value. Jump onto this after a natural disaster – boys hearts are often touched by awful events and they may want to help especially Red Cross, SES, Surf Lifesaving

**Hatchery experience** – to help boys feel OK about being gentle and caring, bring in a chicken hatchery – watching grown tough boys being gentle with newborn chickens can be life changing for the boys!

**Getting more dads to volunteer in schools** – whether that is a special canteen day, greeting students at school gates, playing some fun sport on oval before school, lunch time, create a go-cart club, homing pigeons ... anything a bit different to school! (see Fathering Project to see if there is a member/group nearby)

**Make boys feel useful** – give them jobs to do around the classroom/outside the classroom – to fight boys feeling like failure and feeling worthless you need to give the opportunities to matter!

**Bring classes into school** – some schools bring yoga, karate, archery, meditation into school at lunchtime. This helps boys who otherwise would not be able to have access to such classes.

**Box of lego** – have a large box in the back of your classroom – boys often just gravitate towards it during the ‘empty’ moments in class and yes they ask to use it when they finish their work!! Could get some ideas from [this lego site](#) too.

**Large cuddly toys** – in my computer class I have 5 large stuffed toys and boys often come in and get one and sit down with it! Sometimes they stroke it other times they pretend to have conversations with it and other times they sit it on their lap while they work! They have become my secret weapon for hands on boys...

**Fascinating facts** – each week have a time set aside where students need to find a fascinating fact that they can share.

**To encourage boys to answer questions/participate in class** – use a soft beany toy or a tennis ball – throw it and whoever holds it is the only one to speak

**Finishing tasks** – boys like to finish what they start rather than leave things unfinished. Give them smaller tasks so they can experience success.

**Dot points in clear sight** – this helps boys who forget what is required of them, and in order of required completion ... saves them asking again and again!

**Keep walking around the class** – having a teacher who keeps moving around the class helps boys stay on track, partly as it makes them feel safe and helps lads who can behave impulsively.

**Engage boys to help do projects around the school** – helping the gardener, help build paths, paint fences etc. It helps give boys ownership of the physical environment

**Make it real** – if doing war poetry, build a trench, even have them try to write with pencils on paper in the darkness. -just like the poets did!

**Use basketball to teach maths** – and stats, graphs....

**Create special projects that link to curriculum** – as an incentive allow them to build kites, robotics, self propelled boats, knitted ropes, macramé, paddle pop designs, recycled stuff...

**To encourage writing** – use pavement chalk, water paint on walls, do LARGE ... magnetic letters on wall somewhere. Here are some [free ways to motivate kids to write](#).

**Teach old games** - like skipping, marbles, clapping games, hacky sacks, dodge ball

**Avoid using too many words** – Clarity of instruction is fundamentally important but equally so is the decluttering of a curriculum. Focus on the kid (student) and work out what he is interested in. Instruct with relevance and don't over talk! Boys hate that!

## Helping Boys Shine in Our Schools — Programs & Ideas

**Hermit crabs!** — I teach year 5/6, I find hands on task, student voice & an element of choice works wonders. I've just put hermit crabs in my classroom & excitement has lifted.

**Novelty** — innovative ways of showing understanding — ‘Boys respond so very well to demonstrating their understanding of a topic in non-traditional ways...eg, not pen to paper. I had great success with allowing boys to act, draw, create video recordings, build models, etc. to show what they really understood about a topic. This often led to further discussion and questions about a ‘big idea’. It also was sometimes relevant to ask “Okay, how are you going to show me what you understand?”.

**Connection** - Forget programs. It's about connection with his teacher/s, and social bonds — a feeling of belonging and constant reinforcement that he can learn, along with patience and acceptance that sometimes he will dig his heels in and say no, and that's ok, and he'll get another go tomorrow. I suspect the success of many of these “programs” come down to teachers operating in this way, and if this happened in every classroom there would be far less disengagement and school refusal

*“I taught Mathematics angles and geometry by getting the boys to pretend they were on a snowboard/skateboard (whatever their preference) and jump appropriately (180 degrees clockwise, 90 degrees anticlockwise, etc). Was so much fun and so much more purposeful than filling in a worksheet.” — Sarah Sheehan (email correspondence)*

READ THIS: Do you know what it's like to actually be a student in your class? Read *The Washington Post's* article [“Teacher spends two days as a student and is shocked at what she learns”](#)