Top Tips to Get Boys Reading from Gary Wilson

Try these top tips from Gary Wilson, one of the UK’s leading authorities on raising boys’ achievement, to help get your boys reading - and loving it.

- Connecting the learning is particularly important for boys. If they don’t see a clear sense and purpose, many won’t engage.

- Give them the big picture. Mapping out ideas using graphic organisers of any kind can really aid a boy’s engagement with learning.

- Create as many opportunities for reflection as you can. For many boys this is the weakest link in their learning process.

- Give boys a system. Checklists, learning mats, success criteria really help boys.

- Talk, talk, talk and more talk prior to writing. For many boys, writing without talking their ideas first can be a real problem.

- Short term goals and short term rewards. “Boy friendly chunks” work best for most boys.

- For many boys, to function effectively in group work there needs to be a clear outcome. They need to be grouped effectively, have clear roles and there needs to be an element of challenge.

- Present a challenge the minute they set foot in the classroom - problem-solving works best.

- Make sure there are some opportunities for active learning in all lessons.

- Reduce peer pressure by giving peer leaders a positive focus for their natural leadership ability.

- Reflect on how you talk to boys and how you talk to girls - look at the frequency, the nature and the quality of those interactions. Many boys believe teachers prefer girls just because of the way we talk to them.

- Make it fun! Relate to their personal interests - value what it is that boys bring to the table and let’s help stop the negative labelling that so many boys suffer from.

For more information visit Gary’s own site
www.garywilsonraisingboysachievement.co.uk