

**BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP:
ENTICING BOYS TO BOOKS**
Suggestions for Parents, Teachers, Caregivers, and Librarians

Prepared and presented by

Carole D. Fiore

Training and Library Consulting

carole@fiore-tlc.biz

- Provide boys with lots of opportunities for sensory activities and experiences.
- Make sure your center, classroom, and library have print materials that will interest boys.
- Provide boy-friendly culminating activities after completing books.
- Once boys get started, they don't want to move from one activity to another.
- Allow boys more time to transition from one activity to another.
- Give boys frequent breaks from work.
- Provide boys with opportunities to engage in creative dramatics, to demonstrate their abilities.
- Allow boys to move about the classroom and library as they work and think.
- Provide literature circles and book discussion groups – and separate participants by gender.
- Read humorous poetry aloud.
- Share nonfiction as a read aloud and booktalk informational books.
- Give reluctant readers short passages to read.
- Use art as a way to respond to literature.
- Provide boys with some prior knowledge (background) before they begin to read or listen to a book.
- Allow boys to experience the actions in a book – before and/or after reading and listening.
- Provide more titles similar in theme to the one a boy has selected or one read aloud to them and enjoyed.
- Do not think of comic books or graphic novels as sub-literature.
- Provide a wide variety of reading materials at home and in the classroom/center.
- Encourage fathers to become active in their sons' reading.
- Model reading.
- Set aside a daily time when everyone reads – turn off the TV, video games, and the computer.
- Read the newspaper with boys.
- Allow boys to participate in choosing their books.
- Support reading selections – no matter what they are!
- Participate in local, state, regional, and national young reader's award programs.