

# Boys and Reading: A Quick Guide for Parents

5 Strategies to Encourage Boys to Read

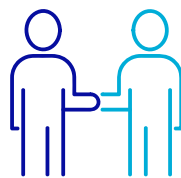


## The Benefits of Reading

Reading has obvious academic benefits and is particularly helpful in vocabulary development in children. Studies have shown a clear link between reading and the development of intelligence. Historically, boys read less than girls. Hence, it is important to develop strategies to empower and encourage boys to read.

## Strategy 1: Choice

Let your son choose what he wants to read. Don't be limited to traditional or school sanctioned texts. Multimodal texts like graphic novels are legitimate choices. Boys' reading attentiveness increases when they are actively involved in the selection of texts. Hence, expose your sons to different texts and encourage them to choose.



## Strategy 2: Role models

Exposing your son to male reading role models will have a significant impact on their perception of reading. Fathers, brothers, uncles, and family friends can all help shape a positive view of reading in boys, particularly of families are intentional about reading together.

## Strategy 3: Read together

Family reading time at home can encourage boys to develop as readers and develop a love for books. Half an hour of reading time every day has many positive benefits, including down time from devices. Encouraging boys to take a book to bed instead of being online will reap many benefits. The mental health benefits of reading are immense.



## Strategy 4: Books as gifts

Books make wonderful gifts; both for your own sons and your sons' friends. For example, pairing a gift of a soccer ball with a soccer-related novel or autobiography may encourage the recipient to dive into the text.

## Strategy 5: Read Aloud

Read aloud to your sons for as long as possible. Research has found that many boys find this activity enjoyable and beneficial far beyond the early years. This can easily become a post-dinner or bedtime family activity. Be creative and find a time and practice that works for your family.



"Families play a critical role in promoting male literacy" - Jane McFann