

BOYS' LITERACY TIP

September 2009

HWCDSB



TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP...

Parents and teachers can work together to encourage boys to read. Michael Sullivan, author of

[Connecting boys with books](#), offers a few tips for parents:

1. Take it easy.

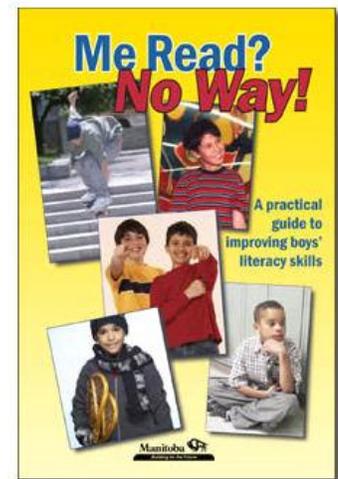
Becoming a proficient reader has little to do with being able to read difficult books. It does, however, have a great deal to do with the amount of reading a boy does. So allow your son to choose books, even if they are below his reading level. This way, not only is he reading, but he will also develop confidence as he continues to read. Eventually, he will build up his skills so that he can read more difficult books. What you don't want to happen is for your son to get frustrated by difficult books so that he gives up reading altogether.

2. Let him choose.

Allow your son to choose the books that he wants to read for pleasure; but, don't pressure him so that he gets the impression that reading is a chore imposed on him. Even though he might choose the same types of books over and over again, books that are gross, or contain humour that is edgy, don't worry, this is normal. Boys tend to enjoy these types of books. Remember that he is exposed to these types of things in the media, and that he can deal with such things better in the context of a book.

3. Model good reading.

Even when you are not reading with your son, make sure he **sees** you read. Men tend to read in isolation—alone or out of view, so boys don't have the opportunity to see many men who read. Sullivan urges fathers to “break the cycle!” Find as many opportunities to read in front of boys, yours especially.



For more tips, go to

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brochure/meread/meread.pdf>

For additional information, please contact:

Mary Jane Di Gregorio
Special Assignment Teacher-
Literacy
905 525-2930, ext. 2812



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic
District School Board

Believing. Achieving. Serving