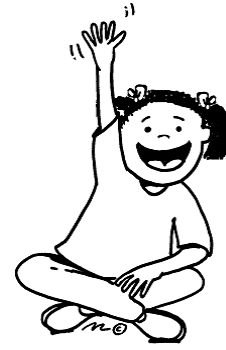


# Boys and Girls Learn Differently

A Workshop Presented by Michael Reist



## The Current Situation

- Universities are now 60% female
- Grade 8 and grade 12 girls have higher aspirations
- Girls receive approximately 60% of A's (80 +)
- Boys receive approximately 70% of D's and F's (D=50-59 F=less than 50)
- Boys make up 80% of drop outs

## Learning and Behaviour "Disorders"

- Boys make up 90% of discipline problems
- Boys make up 2/3 of the learning disabled
- Boys make up 90% of the behaviourally disabled
- Boys make up 80% of ADD/ADHD diagnoses
- Boys make up 70% of those with serious drug and alcohol problems
- For every girl who commits suicide four boys do

## The boy who threw the spear

The Bart Simpson Syndrome "It's cool to be dumb."

## Attitudes Toward Boys

- The toxic boy syndrome
- Institutional decorum
- "Immaturity" of boys relative to girls

## Three fundamental facts about boys:

- a year and a half difference in cognitive and biological development
- love of movement and space
- preference for actions over words

## Zoning out

Aggression Nurturance - the male hug

## Physical Movement

- Boys prefer one task at a time (and one instruction at a time)
- Boys do not **transition** between tasks as well as girls do
- Boys prefer to deal in the immediate moment

## Boys and Listening

- boys do not hear as well as girls
- boys are not as good at discriminating between foreground and background noise

- boys are “flooded” by repetitive verbal stimulation (saying the same thing 5 different ways)
- boys have a “surge protector” and will shut down when over-loaded (stop hearing)

### **Girls and Math**

- Externalize thought processes:
  - words
  - pictures
  - manipulatives
- Work in pairs or groups
- Emotional support and connection
- Relate concepts to real-life situations
- *Girls learn math better from female teachers.*

### **Girl Power versus Intimacy**

- The need to connect one-on-one
- Primary family attachments

### **Stress**

prolonged stress in childhood in the form of over-stimulation or under-nurturance leads to cortisol release (the stress hormone) which inhibits brain activity generally

### **Hormones Behaviour and Learning**

- Estrogen: promotes co-operation; lowers aggression, competition, self-assertion
- Oxytocin: promotes the desire for bonding, connection, touch
- Serotonin: greater impulse control

### **Male Hormone: Testosterone**

- males have 10 times as much testosterone as females
- males experience 6 or 7 testosterone surges per day
- levels increase by up to 150%
- testosterone levels rise when males feel threatened

### **The life path of a girl. The life path of a boy**

### **The highly sensitive child – introvert vs extrovert**

### **The Emotional Needs of Children**

- To be seen
- To be listened to
- To be touched