

# Michael Auden's Teaching Boys Emotional Literacy

## Interactive Training Modules



# Male teachers, dad and other adult males

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The Village Teacher

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# **Michael Auden's Teaching Boys Emotional Literacy**

Created by Michael Auden © 2014

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## **Boys will be the male that appeals to them at any given time.**

They are great imitators. They respond to all sorts of masculine images and behaviours, especially once they are free of peer group pressure to reduce themselves to the lowest common level of maleness.

The things boys share in common are:

Their physicality, when they get upset they share their pain with everyone around them.

They wear masks, like fool, lazy, aggressive etc to hide their tender selves.

They have little understanding of their emotional lives

## **Dad is very important to growing boys**

They want to please him, be like him and eventually compete with him. If dad is involved actively in the family group then boys are more likely to be responsible in group settings.

If dad is loving, caring and respectful of women, then boys are more likely to be the same to their female teachers, female classmates and to the female family members they live with.

Boys often need other male role models to demonstrate the complex world of being a caring male.

If boys live without dad at home, they need male role models and a mother who says positive things about adult males so that they can grow into caring men.

If dad and other close males don't help a boy label his emotions he may hide them. As a result boys act with less empathy, they are less supportive of friends and family and they don't get as close as people would like.

Boys without close examples of caring masculinity will adopt street culture as a suitable expression of their masculinity.

A boy will pay close attention to what society expects of him and he

acts accordingly.

A boy wants dad to help him learn that masculinity is defined by a set of values surrounding his family, himself and the community that he is a part of.

Dads can give a boy permission to have real feelings of his own and an emotional vocabulary to help him express his feelings.

Many boys believe that their road to manhood requires them to pass a series of tests.

Common elements in these tests of manhood involve:

- Strength
- Stoicism
- And avoiding anything feminine.

Some boys don't have the skills or interests to be successful at being a masculine boy.

Figuring out the rules of masculinity and living up to them is part of being a boy. Most boys find the tests of masculinity scary and hard to pass.

Boys need to show each other how well they've done and this shows in their behaviour in school. They are acting out their masculine identity.

Help boys by establishing meaningful relationships with them.

Bring men into their lives who model emotional attachment. Boys need to learn about caring masculinity from older males whom they respect.

Men are extremely important in giving boys messages about being a man.

Boys need a full range of emotions, including fear, shame, humiliation and uncertainty. They are desperate to understand how to become men.

Boys need more than a dad as male role models. They need brothers, uncles, friend's dads and male teachers as well.

They also need mum and women saying positive things about adult males so that they can grow with confidence.

Support boys who don't fit in. Support and acknowledge and value their interests.

Watch to see if they are hiding their caring selves, their smart selves, in order to win favour with their aggressive male friends. Peer pressure is a great source of boys not succeeding in school.

## Two Page Plan – Leaned masculinity

*Describe a time when you felt like a boy you taught was on a road to self destruction..*

*What tips have you learned in this session that help you understand what boys might be going through in determining their masculinity?*

1.

2.

3.

4.



5.

6.

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