

## Ten facts about boys in early years

**Girls continue to outperform boys at all levels of education. However, early years practitioners, like you, are ideally placed to try and help reduce the achievement gap.**

**Here are ten facts to get you thinking about the care you currently provide to boys:**

1. In the UK, there has been a 9% gap in achievement between girls and boys since at least 2005 although not all boys are underachieving, and not all girls are achieving. (Neil Jones, January 2020)
2. An estimated four out of five parents seeking help come forward because of their sons and not their daughters. There is a commonly held view that boys are 'more difficult' and harder to discipline
3. The right hand side of the brain processes movement, imagination and emotions. It also houses the centres for visual information, spatial relations, patterns and abstract thinking. The right hand side of the brain at birth is more developed and connected than the left and in boys this is even more connected
4. The left hand side of the brain develops later in all children but even more so in boys and it is important to bear this in mind. The left hand side of the brain handles fine motor movement, control, order, sequence, letters and words
5. Toddler boys are less able to multitask than girls, but they can be more focused
6. When boys move, their brain wakes up and they will react physically to everything around them
7. When a boy is physically active, his brain is active. When he is inactive, then so is the majority of his brain
8. Boys have an innate ability to visualise and manipulate objects in space – they demonstrate a greater ability when it comes to games such as catching or kicking balls due to their spatial ability
9. Boys tend to be more motivated and engaged by mechanical tasks
10. Four and five-year-old boys have a shorter attention span than girls.



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