

I am the mother of two boys and an experienced teacher of 17 years. I have a Master of Education Degree with a specific interest in the education of boys.

Two years ago I left the mainstream classroom to start my own educational business called World Class Programs. I facilitate a variety of educational programs for primary boys and girls during the term and in the school holidays at Wentworth Falls .

I offer a differentiated program , that is , the topics in my programs go beyond the regular NSW curriculum. Some of my past topics have been Geology, Archaeology, Paleontology, Medieval History, Oil painting and Web Design.

I am writing to let you know that the vast majority of my clients are boys. In two years I have already helped at least 200 boy s in my local area. I like to think that I have helped their self esteem in some small way.

Some of the things that I have learnt about boys on a microcosmic level have been very interesting:

Content:

- Boys gravitate towards science subjects and like to learn about unusual topics
- Boys like to recall knowledge verbally

Process

- Boys like to learn in small groups of boys
- Boys like to learn from male experts
- Boys like freedom of choice
- Boys appreciate the Multiple Intelligences model because it liberates them from Linguistic tasks
- Boys excel at Thinking tasks
- Boys like to be involved in Problem Solving
- Boys like to be Creative in designing as in Edward De Bone's philosophy.
- Boys can adapt to challenging activities planned with the help of Bloom's Taxonomy.

Product

- Boys like 'Hands on' tasks , especially models.Boys learn by talking and doing.
- Word Processing is popular because it alleviates some of their handwriting and spelling problems
- Boy's get very excited by Web page design.
- Mind mapping is a practical strategy that is not tedious for boys.
- Metacognition is useful with boys

Learning Environment

- Boys like to be in an accepting environment, to be supported for who they are and to be given lots of praise and feedback on their talents

- Boys like to learn without testing or negative judgements of any kind.
- Boys need a lot of positivity in many different ways.

Could you please send me the results of your findings . Sincerely
Vivianne Byrnes M.Ed.B.A.Dip.Ed.Dip.RE.SP.