

Other organisations and projects supporting boys' reading

A. THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

www.literacytrust.org.uk

The National Literacy Trust is an independent charity that creates literacy partnerships to change lives. The Trust has a strong commitment to promoting boys' reading by creating resources and managing programmes to support teachers and librarians. These include:

1. **Reading The Game** – a national programme to motivate reading through football.

At www.readingthegame.org.uk schools and libraries can access downloadable football-related literacy activities. Resources, practical ideas, case studies and quizzes all aimed at using the great love of football possessed by many children (especially boys) to help create a love of reading are available at <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/Football/RTGResources/rtgresources.html>

For some ideas about how you can get a footballer to visit your school or reading club see <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/Football/RTGResources/ideas.html#playervisits>

2. **Reading Champions**, a DfES-funded initiative supports primary and secondary schools in involving boys and men in creating a reading culture www.readingchampions.org.uk. The scheme supports schools in changing boys' attitudes to reading by using the motivational power of male reading role models. Through the resources it offers, as well as the tried-and-tested framework to encourage boys to champion reading activity, it has succeeded in turning boys into readers across the country.

To find out what Reading Champions can offer to a school and how it can be used to help get boys reading visit <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/campaign/Champions/school.html>

Resources designed to be used by teachers and librarians who are trying to 'get the boys on board' Includes the ever popular Reading Champion posters as a downloadable resource as well as booklists and ideas at <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/campaign/Champions/resources.html>

3. **Reading Connects**, a DfES-funded initiative supports primary and secondary schools in building a whole-school reading culture which encourages children to develop a love of reading for pleasure at www.readingconnects.org.uk. By using the Reading Connects method, as well as its resources and networking opportunities, schools are able to bring the school library into the whole-school community and therefore engage target groups such as KS3 boys to read more. The opportunities that Reading Connects provides include:

For practical ideas designed to aid the creation of a whole school reading culture, including a section specifically on boys visit <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/readingconnects/practiceindex.html>

Resources including downloadable materials designed to help create a whole school reading culture at <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/readingconnects/resourcesindex.html>

4. **Research**

An overview of the research about boys' reading is at

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/campaign/Champions/research.html>

5. News

Keep up to date with literacy related news as it happens. Literacy news updated daily at:

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/literacynews/index.html>

B. THE READING AGENCY

<http://www.readingagency.co.uk>

The Reading Agency inspires children's reading through nation-wide programmes delivered mainly through public libraries. We're a national charity and reading development agency, and work to make reading a bigger part of more people's lives; boys are a key audience for this work.

We help libraries engage actively with readers, through national change programmes and partnerships, through smaller experimental pilots, and by providing practical resources, toolkits and materials which draw on successful project work.

Every year, the **Summer Reading Challenge™** engages over 650,000 readers between 4 and 12. In 2006, 343,200 children read at least 6 books as part of the Challenge, and over 46% of the participants were boys. The spying theme of the 2006 Reading Mission had definite boy-appeal:

"My favourite Mission was when I had to think of a book title. I really enjoyed doing Mission L.I.B and if I could I would do it again" (Luke, aged 11)

"I thought the reading mission was very good. I started reading big thick books" (Matt, aged 9)

Parents noticed the impact too:

"Without the Reading Mission I would not have managed to get Nicholas to read as this is not enjoyable to him. Having the certificate and medal at the end of six books has encouraged him to want to read"

"Joshua (7) is showing a lot more interest in reading. He has improved dramatically since starting the Mission. We will definitely be doing it next year"

"I've been telling Ross that for quite a while that one day he will start reading a book and he won't be able to put it down. Ross found that book and it's now much easier to get him reading. Thank you" (Tye Green)

The Reading Mission website attracted more feedback from boys:

I love the reading mission, I wish it could go on for longer. (William, 7)

i love secret agent stuff, it cool. its wierd because when i got my 3rd and 4th book was about spys. (joshy, 10,)

We achieve similar results from other TRA projects where boys are inspired to read.

Around a third of the 5000 children who attend Chatterbooks reading groups in libraries each year are boys. For some, the support that a group of reading friends provides makes the difference for them in becoming a reader. Library staff report a variety of success stories:

'One child has been reading with his mother. His brother dropped out of school when he was 16, reading, writing skills very low. He started listening to the stories the child and his mother have been reading and has started to read again.'

The Reading Agency promotes reading for young people for all ages. **Fulfilling their potential** is a programme to help library services transform their reading spaces for young people of today. A successful Big Lottery bid has led to a programme to transform 20 libraries to provide ‘**Book Bars**’ where young people work with library and youth service staff to create a new style of service. Boys are very much part of this development.

C. BOOKTRUST

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

Booktrust is an independent national charity that encourages people of all ages and cultures to discover and enjoy reading. The reader is at the heart of everything they do.

Bookstart Fathers

The evidence suggests that if more men shared books with their babies it would have a tremendous impact on family cohesion and child development. This DfES funded project looks at how Bookstart can be better marketed to fathers. Booktrust employed an advertising agency to devise and implement a campaign in male interest magazines and on radio, promoting Bookstart and targeted specifically at men. Meanwhile Brian Lawson of Consilience Consulting has been undertaking research in Sheffield and Cornwall on how the Bookstart scheme can best reach out to fathers, encouraging dads to read with their young children.

For further information contact Chris Meade, Director of Booktrust

<http://www.bookstart.co.uk/Journalist-news-article&newsid=0000047>

C. ASCEL (Association of Senior Children’s and Education Librarians)

<http://www.ascel.org.uk/>

ASCEL works strategically to support library initiatives for children and young people across the UK. Every library authority is a member. Individual public library services and Schools Library Services are working to support the love of reading for all children and young people, including boys, with ASCEL’s support.