

Child Temperament and Capacities

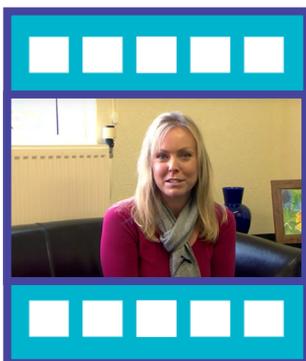
High Achieving White Working Class (HAWWC) Boys



Key Facts

EVIDENCE

- Certain personality or temperament characteristics seem to act as protective factors and increase young boy's resilience to adversity. Those most frequently observed included sociability, affection, memory, flexibility, reasoning capacity and a sense of humour.
- Other protective child attributes which can enhance a young boy's capacity to learn include being curious, being socially competent, being an independent learner, and having the ability to focus, concentrate and persist.
- Enjoying dialogue and engaging in sustained talk is associated with higher attainment and development in young boys.
- An enjoyment of the imagination and stories can facilitate deeper level learning for young boys.
- Physical outdoor activity is often important in young boy's explorations, developmental capacity and wellbeing.
- Friendships and attachment to others provide young boys with a sense of belonging, and support their understanding of rules, behaviour expectations and boundaries. These relationships 'anchor' young boys in their social world.
- Developing a sense of agency and independence provides young boys with a sharpened sense of self-esteem, self-efficacy, self-regulation and capacity for success.



Attitudes & Dispositions



Sociability & Emotional Responsiveness

HAWWC Boys Project Video Blogs



Project Findings

Socio-Emotional Characteristics:

The boys have a capacity to make strong and loving attachments to their close family, to make and sustain friendships with their peers and others, to be affectionate, loving, empathetic to others and to 'lead' interactions are characteristics associated with high achieving young boys. Although tantrums and frustrations may appear, they are quickly overcome.

Attitudes and Dispositions: High achieving young boys have strong exploratory drive. They are inquisitive, curious, questioning and fascinated by how things and relationships work. They are capable of long periods of concentration, persistence and focus and can become obsessive about things they find interesting. They can memorise and mimic and seek detailed information for things that fascinate which they can re-

tain. They are generally confident, independent, self-motivating and self-sustaining operators within their world, although they also enjoy joint, 'companionable' activity.

Physical Capacity: The importance of physical and outdoor activity is evident in high achieving young boys preferred experiences.

They enjoy rough and tumble play, movement of all kinds, scooters, trikes, bikes and football and seem to delight in exploring the natural world. They can also get immersed for long periods of quiet, still activities, including puzzles,

reading, drawing, Lego and small world play.

Fascinations and Aspirations:

Some high achieving young boys have already developed a prowess and a deep fascination for an accomplishment such as football, swimming, music, composing, maths or reading and express a strong motivation to develop this further.

This prowess, however, sat in a wider range of achievement not as isolated success.

More Information

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Action Points

- Supporting and sustaining strong, secure and trusting attachments of young boys to key adults and peers, both within and outside of their home, is critical to healthy development, resilience and wellbeing.
- Encouraging a young boy's sociability, friendships and emotional competence is central to their capacity to connect and learn, self-regulate and manage relationships.
- Giving young boys space and time to pursue their interests and develop their fascinations and supporting their capacity to focus and concentrate for extended periods of time will enhance their capacity to learn.
- Encouraging the young boy to develop their capacity to 'lead and shape' his learning and engage in sustained dialogues about their interests and passions is hugely beneficial in motivating the child.
- Building in regular and sustained periods of outdoor and physical activity will enhance the young boy's learning, motivation and wellbeing.