

# How To Talk So BOYS Will Listen

Simple Techniques to  
Influence Boys

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## Intimacy and Eye Contact

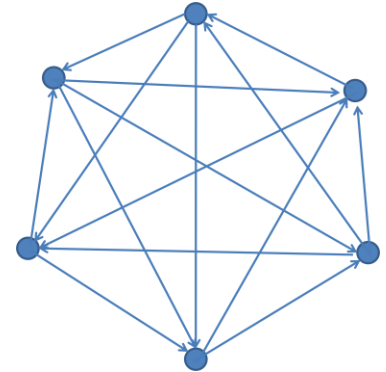
Intimacy can be very difficult for boys:

“I don’t like to look into my friend’s eyes... I’m afraid they will steal my soul...”  
“My brain turns off when you tell me to look at you. What am I looking for?”  
“It’s too much. I can’t look at you and also tell you how I’m feeling.”

### The Solution

Parallel Activities:

Have the group help you cut out something for a lesson, etc.  
Paper activity then sharing. This way they can stay focused on the paper.  
Spider Web activity



## Internal Feelings vs External Expressions

It is very, very difficult at times to gauge a boys feelings based on what he is showing on his face. Many times feelings such as happiness, embarrassment, anger, awkwardness, etc. all look like happiness. Don’t assume that just because a boy is smiling it means that he’s happy.

## Ways to work with Boys...in groups and one-on-one

### Soda Can Technique

- Imagine you are an unopened can of soda
- Imagine those things that happen to you that make you angry
- Shake, shake, shake
- What happens if you open it now?
- What happens if you wait a few hours?

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## Hit and Run Praise

There can be big pitfalls to praising. There is a good chance that we will blow it by going on too long and it becoming a criticism: “You did a great job on that spelling test. Why can’t you do that every time?”

It can also backfire because it feels like too much pressure to do well: “I wonder if she will be ashamed of me if I screw up next week.”

## Three Step Praise Process:

1. Describe what you see
2. Relate it to a trait
3. Run!

### Example:

1. “I see that you improved your attendance last week.”
2. “That must have taken some hard work.”
3. Run!

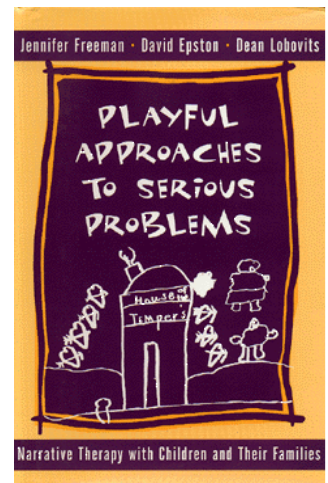
## Castles and Draw Bridges

This technique works very well with boys who are easily injured or have become the kid who is often picked on. It access a powerful way to withstand verbal assaults and is significantly more powerful than saying: “Just ignore it.”

1. Relate Castle to Child
2. Explain use of draw bridge in a real castle and a human castle
3. Explain how they can learn to open and close the drawbridge

## Externalizing

“The problem is the problem, the person is not the problem.” This technique works very well with specific problems such as temper, anxiety, impulsiveness, and self defeating thoughts. It allows the child to feel more power over the problem by looking at the problem as “external” to the child. Instead of the boy “being lazy,” it that “laziness is causing trouble” for the boy.



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## Externalizing Process

