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It's a Boy!: Your Son's Development from Birth to Age 18

By Michael Thompson PhD, Teresa Barker



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It's a Boy! provides expert advice on the developmental, psychological, social, emotional, and academic life of boys from infancy through the teen years. Exploring the many ways in which boys strive for masculinity and attempt to define themselves, psychologist Michael Thompson, Ph.D., a leading international expert on boys' development, and journalist Teresa H. Barker identify the key developmental transitions that mark a boy's psychological growth and emotional health, and the challenges both boys and parents face at each age.

- Baby Boys (birth to 18 months): falling in love with your son, healthy attachment, trust, and temperament
- Toddler Years (18 months to 3 years): boys on the go, bold steps, blankies, budding language, and rambunctious physicality
- Powerful Little Boys (ages 3 and 4): superhero ambitions, learning to manage the force of his anger, and celebrating the power of the boy group
- Starting School (ages 5 through 7): developmental cues for school readiness, transitional challenges, tough talk, tender hearts, and first friends
- Boys on a Mission (ages 8 through 10): striving for mastery in sports, organizing the boy brain for school success, and glaring academic gender gaps
- The Preteen (ages 11 through 13): puberty, posturing, and popularity, the culture of cruelty, and stoic silence in the middle school years
- Early High School (ages 14 and 15): powerful peer groups, sexuality, the shift away from Mom, and yearning for Dad's respect and attention
- On the Brink of Manhood (ages 16 through 18): the quest for independence, sex, love, driving, drinking, and other challenges of life

Practical, insightful, and engaging, **It's a Boy!** is the definitive guide to raising boys in today's world, revealing with humor, compassion, and joy all the infinite varieties of boys and the profound ways in which we love them.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Addressing recent troubling studies about boys in the U.S. authors Thompson and Barker (*Raising Cain; Speaking of Boys*) underscore the developmental differences between girls and boys that often compel boys to underachieve in school and embrace destructive behavior. The authors aim to rectify a sense of parental loss of trust in boys' development by advocating early unconditional love, strong maternal attachment, restraint of corporal punishment and sexist stereotyping, strong father participation and safe places where boys can engage in undirected, outside play. The trend toward earlier academic performance in school does not suit boys' development, as they tend to learn language and reading slower than girls, hear less well and fidget. Educators and psychologists share their opinions, all in the spirit of embracing boys' unique energy and intellect. Ages 11 to 13 bring startling changes, which the authors examine under the five tasks of adolescence, while ages 14 to 15 invite a mysterious inner life, and ages 16 to 18 present challenges regarding independence, sexuality and responsibility. In this upbeat guide, Thompson especially relies on his good-sense experience as a father and educator to remind parents not to criticize behavior that is typical for boys. (Mar.)

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Review

"It's a Boy! is a powerful guide to raising a son in today's world. Filled with stories from the front lines and practical advice, it is gentle and compassionate, yet also moving and beautiful. The heart of a boy beats in every page."—Michael Gurian, author of *The Wonder of Boys*

"I'm keeping **It's a Boy!** beside my bed until my sons go to college! I love how the book celebrates boys but still holds them responsible for their actions." —Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bees and Wannabes*

"Michael Thompson has gradually earned his place as the Warren Buffett of child rearing, the real deal. His track record of uncanny timing, his hard-won knowledge, common sense, and humanism have resonated with parents everywhere. Now there is a desperate need to understand our boys more deeply; there is a palpable hunger to learn how to handle our sons better. It's a Boy! does both in a way not seen before. It's a Boy! will help your son to feel more loved, understood, and effectively guided by you—forever."—Ron Taffel, Ph.D., author of *Parenting by Heart: How to Stay Connected to Your Child in a Disconnected World*

"Spectacular . . . extraordinary insight, enriched by countless poignant and telling stories of boys and their parents and teachers. It's a Boy! is an immensely helpful navigational chart for steering through the shoals of a boy's developmental stages."—Patrick F. Bassett, president, National Association of Independent Schools

"Wise, sensible, accessible, useful—this is the must-have book every parent of a boy will want and need to turn to as their child grows from a baby to an adolescent. Illuminated by Thompson's years of experience working with boys and their families, this book is chock-full of new insights and the latest science about the ages and stages of boys' development. It's a Boy! is a book that parents, educators, health professionals, and policy makers will go back to again and again and each time come away with a deeper understanding and appreciation of why 'boys will be boys.'"—Robie H. Harris, author of *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*

"Bringing together the latest research and the most timeless knowledge and wisdom, this monumental book

is unique, invaluable, and urgently important. Any person who cares about boys must own this book, as it addresses every relevant question and provides not only authoritative answers but also comfort, warmth, enthusiasm, and spark. What a truly amazing achievement, what a gift Dr. Thompson has given us all.”—Edward M. Hallowell, M.D., author of *Delivered from Distraction: Getting the Most Out of Life with Attention Deficit Disorder*

About the Author

Michael Thompson, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist, lecturer, consultant, and former seventh-grade teacher. He conducts workshops across the United States and internationally on social cruelty, children’s friendships, and boys’ development. With Dan Kindlon, Ph.D., he co-authored the New York Times bestseller *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*, which was adapted into an acclaimed documentary shown on PBS. With Teresa H. Barker he co-authored *The Pressured Child: Helping Your Child Find Success in School and Life* and *Speaking of Boys: Answers to the Most-Asked Questions About Raising Sons*. With Catherine O’Neill Grace and Lawrence J. Cohen, Ph.D., he co-authored *Best Friends, Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Lives of Children* and *Mom, They’re Teasing Me: Helping Your Child Solve Social Problems*. Dr. Thompson is married and the father of two. He lives in Arlington, Massachusetts, and can be reached at www.michaelthompson-phd.com.

Teresa Barker, who collaborated with Michael Thompson on *Raising Cain*, *Speaking of Boys*, and *The Pressured Child*, is a journalist whose other book collaborations include *Girls Will Be Girls*, *The Soul of Money*, and *In the Moment*. Barker is married and the mother of a son and two daughters. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrick Pond:

Reading a e-book can be one of a lot of task that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a guide will give you a lot of new information. When you read a reserve you will get new information since book is one of a number of ways to share the information or even their idea. Second, studying a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially fiction book the author will bring you to imagine the story how the figures do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to other people. When you read this It's a Boy!: Your Son's Development from Birth to Age 18, you could tells your family, friends along with soon about yours reserve. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a reserve.

Dedra Clark:

The publication untitled It's a Boy!: Your Son's Development from Birth to Age 18 is the e-book that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to anyone. The language that writer use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, hence the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of It's a Boy!: Your Son's Development from Birth to Age 18 from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Gordon Frederick:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love It's a Boy!: Your Son's Development from Birth to Age 18, you could enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Joseph Cole:

Many people said that they feel bored when they reading a book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the actual book It's a Boy!: Your Son's Development from Birth to Age 18 to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading talent is developing when you like reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to available a book and study it. Beside that the guide It's a Boy!: Your Son's Development from Birth to Age 18 can to be your brand new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of this time.

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