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Wild Things: The Art Of Nurturing Boys



Synopsis

Playing off the themes in the Caldecott Medal-winning children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*, this informative, practical, and encouraging guide will help parents guide boys down the path to healthy and authentic manhood. *Wild Things* addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual parts of a boy, written by two therapists who are currently engaged in clinical work with boys and their parents and who are also fathers raising five sons. Contains chapters such as "Sit Still! Pay Attention!" "Deficits and Disappointments," and "Rituals, Ceremonies, and Rites of Passage."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James, Stephen & David Thomas. *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys*. Tyndale House. Feb. 2009. c.351p. ISBN 978-1-4143-2227-8. pap. \$14.99. CHILD REARING This worthy, engaging owner's manual on boys aged two to 22 is written from a reserved, supportive Christian perspective. With five sons between them, the authors (both therapists) view testosterone-fueled shenanigans with droll humor and encourage parents to remain calm when upsetting things inevitably occur. The authors aptly demonstrate their view that "[t]he older a boy gets, the more he needs from his caregivers." With real-life examples both mundane and dramatic, they discuss characteristics frequently shared among boys of similar ages and provide guidance on what boys need most during those stages. Practical direction (e.g., give young "Explorers" "space to roam"), along with encouragement to be open and honest when parenting, is constant. While some suggestions (e.g.,

monitoring MySpace accounts or backpack inspections) may alarm some at first, they are tempered by the authors' admonition to "keep a watchful eye" and inform sons you'll be doing so. The work effectively straddles William Sears's attachment parenting and the more openly authoritative style of John Rosemond. In a crowded field, this work is highly recommended for all public libraries and for collections supporting teachers and the helping professions.--Douglas C. Lord, Connecticut State Lib., Hartford --Library Journal, February 2009

"As a pediatrician I see parents everyday wrestling with how to understand and guide their sons. If you're looking for practical parenting skills these pages are filled with sound advice. The authors break down each stage of a boy's journey and it is filled with effective, simple tips that you can implement now. This book is one of the best parenting resources I've seen. " -- Dr Linda Brady, Pediatrician, Nashville "I loved this book! As a single mom for the past seven years, I couldn't wait to dive into David and Stephen's timely work. This mom of two wild things and two softer things needed their roadmap and driving instructions for the dangerous journey we are traveling. Bless you both for the wisdom you have given to me. May all our boys be nurtured and loved until they are the honorable men God intended for them to become." --Angela Thomas, Speaker and Best-selling author of My Single Mom Life. "David and Stephen have once again demonstrated the beauty and power of fraternal collaboration in their newest book, Mentoring Boys. If I didn't know otherwise, I would assume these two guys were grand-dads, not young dads, when I consider the depth of wisdom and breadth of practical applications captured between the covers of this volume. How I wish I had this book when my son was younger, yet the same principles of loving well are applicable from generation to generation. If you want hope and not hype, buy this book. It is a joy to unequivocally endorse it, and I look forward to putting it in the hands of many dads, and moms as well. " -- Scotty Smith, Founding Pastor Christ Community Church "God has entrusted a unique and powerful gift to Dave Thomas to understand the complex language of a boy's heart and help interpret it for us who love them. This is an important book about a very important subject." --Steven Curtis and Mary Beth Chapman

Anyone raising boys should read this book BEFORE they are 5!!! I have raised 5 and am raising a 5 year old grandson now. I have to say, wish I had read this 30 years ago- so much good information and food for thought. Being a parent of boys has its needs as they will possibly be fathers and role models one day. Parents need to be GOOD role models first and foremost.

Excellent book and a must read for anyone raising boys. Gave me a better understanding of a boy's mindset and how to alter your behavior to facilitate parenting these highly active, inquisitive explorers and lovers. Loved the book and have recommended it to my sister and husband who also speak highly of it.

GET this book if you have boys. This is a **MUST** read for any mom of a boy or a grandparent or really anyone who deals with boys. :) It allows the reader to truly understand how boys are wired and the best way to handle each stage. **LOVE IT**

What An amazing tool. I am so thankful I picked this book up to read. It has been a huge asset to our family in helping to understand our "little man" in the house. I have also been able to use a ton of the insight from this book in my new job as a special education para-professional. I would recommend this book to **ANYONE** who has a boy, of any age, in their life in **ANY** capacity!

This is a book to read, reread, and pass on to anyone who has boys in their life. It goes through all stages of emotional, mental, and physical development and has great tips and techniques for understanding the boys in your life. I love it so much that I bought a copy for my mom too and highly recommend it to anyone who has boys in their life.

I first purchased this book for my son for Christmas not having read it myself. He read it, he read it with his wife and it changed how they relate to their boys. They told me how they switched their thinking and the whole family was better because of it. So next opportunity, I purchased another one and gave it to that family. I have just continued to do that. It's one of those books that really helps in frustrating times at the same time it brings honor to the boys, teen boys, and to young men because they are affirmed and given permission to become who they really are rather than wear a label put upon them by others that doesn't help them in anything. Let's face it, if you're perfectly parenting you don't need this book, but I don't know anyone like that.

This is a fabulous book if you have boys!! I love learning about my boys from this book. The age and all the specific things my boys are going through are not only mostly spot on; they are so insightful to me as their mom and for their dad. I can learn more about them, how they're growing and how their hearts are in the stage they're in. I love referring to the book often, it's helpful and reassuring.

A book about parenting that is:1. Entertaining AND highly informative2. Practical yet genius3. REALI'm a first-time parent of a 2-year old boy and have bought and been given several books on parenting. But so many of them are repetitive, dry as last week's break and make everything sound so methodical or 'easy.' Not this one. This book provides real-life examples and fairly basic but highly effective methods to be better parents.As a woman I tend to want to tame my wild boy. But, this book first of all lets me know that his antics are normal and that all I need to do is re-direct that energy because squelching it runs the risk of damaging the spirit of a man!THANK YOU, Steven & David!

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