

Training boys to store information

As technology spreads further into our lives we need to be aware that higher order jobs will require men and women to notice things around them and be aware of their surroundings as well as the expressions and body language of colleagues, employees and friends. The male look is now going to hold our boys back from employment and progression in their working lives unless we can do something about this.

As an example we are beginning to see a proliferation of self-service technologies such as checking in your own bag at airports and scanning your own groceries at supermarkets. When we replace people who used to do these jobs and do them ourselves, we rely on someone being there to assist and oversee us to ensure that mistakes are not made. Most often these people are adult women who can multitask and notice where we are doing something wrongly. Women have always been really good at this and will store information from an outing, party etc just in case they may need to use it at a later date. This explains why they have far less accidents than men as they are more aware of dangers and notice dangerous or potentially dangerous items.

After a family event women can comprehensively talk about the venue, what people were wearing (including colours and fabrics), and many other facets of the event. Consequently they can make small talk personally, over the phone and electronically as they have a lot of data to play with. Men, generally, find small talk more difficult as we don't always pay attention to detail and may, therefore, have comparatively less to say. When we are trained, however, or when we are told to look for particular things at an event, we do that well. Take, for instance, customs officers, police and detectives.

It is probably too late for males of my age to be trained (a cop out!!!!???) but we all need to be more vigilant these days in terms of Occupational Health and Safety. Men tend to go shopping with lists – looking for certain items only. Once the list has been ticked off we are finished shopping. Women, however, will notice by reflecting on an item on a supermarket shelf that they are low on this commodity at home. So – what do we do?

We need our young boys to be trained in noticing things, expressions, dangers and hazards, body language etc. if they are to have higher-order jobs and face the public rather than work in the background. When we are dealing with customers and clients we need good interpersonal skills and these include noticing our clients expression as well as what they say. We also need to respond to their needs in a timely manner. We find that boys who were content working in the background are now having many of their jobs replaced with the advent of further technology so they now need to move forward and face the public (as in fast food outlets). This is where my phase, website and Institute "Boys Forward" arose.

My new Photo Pack Plus will assist in this as it contains still photos to look at, then blank them or cover them up, then ask kids questions about who (or what) was in that picture. Parents and teachers can then extend this to gathering information from a visit to friends – being asked to look out for certain things in the friend's home etc. We can then extend this to motion pictures, video clips and do the same. We don't want to change anything else with our young males – we want them to celebrate their masculinity and be proud of being a man, but we now need them to notice to aid their health, to keep them out of danger and to ensure they have a meaningful job into the 21st century.