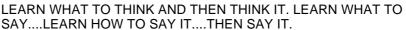
## Boys Forward Tip Archive 17-07-2002

## Learn what to think and then think it

By Chris Gladstone



Our boys (and our girls) are like ships without a rudder unless they are given direction and a purpose in life by their carers...be they parents, guardians, teachers or whatever. Unless they have a strong feeling of self worth, that they are loved, that they know that we believe in them and their dreams, then their ability to handle life's challenges (and they occur frequently) is greatly diminished.

Our children are growing up in a world totally different to the one we experienced as children. Pressures are greater, opportunities "appear" to be less abundant and sometimes a feeling of being lost and alone is an all too common scene.

What should we do every day to let them know that they have the seeds of greatness planted in them. Firstly, tell them so....frequently. Secondly, understand that all of us (in particular our children) need to know that we are loved unconditionally. We need to tell our children at least a dozen times a day that we love them....even when their behaviour makes them "unlovable". We need to hug our children (in particular our boys) at every opportunity.

We need to show them by example how to react in a variety of situations. Someone once said there are three ways we teach ... EXAMPLE ... EXAMPLE...

Regardless of what we say our children will always do what we do.

How do we greet the day?

How do we greet each other?

How do we speak to each other?

Do we think before we speak?

What do we think?

Do we have a positive approach to life and our circumstances or do we constantly criticise, condemn and complain?

Do we give our children hope for the future?

Do we praise their behaviour at every opportunity or do we put them down?

Our children need to know that everything is OK....we need to constantly reassure them. Someone once said that the greatest thing a father can do for his children is to show them how to love their mother. Boys are often referred to as " A chip off the old block". Are our boys a chip that has been painstakingly whittled down to insignificance or are they a chip that has been tenderly carved over the years into something of beauty?

Learn what to think and then think it. Learn what to say  $\dots$  learn how to say it  $\dots$  then say it.

