



**The McCusker
Charitable Foundation**

Tip 26 - What boys need.

As part of The Fathering Projects involvement with your school, I will be including helpful tips and ideas for all fathers and father – figures. I hope these tips will help, inspire and encourage all fathers and father – figures to be the best that they can be, as all fathers and father – figures are critically important in every child’s life. Tips derived from “The Blue Book of Tips for Fathers and Father-Figures”

More involved fathers and father – figures = better outcomes for children.

- Boys need time with fathers & father—figures.
- Men are automatically role models for boys so be aware of that—you don’t choose to be, you are .
- Teach them that revenge and anger doesn’t really solve problems, unlike in the movies or on TV.
- Speak and role model respect for women.
- Encourage physical activity, confidence and a healthy view of competition.
- Telling them to “be a man” or “man up” sends the wrong message.
- Tell them it is ok to make mistakes, feel sad or cry—tell them when you felt that way as a child.
- Don’t spoon feed the boys, help them come up with solutions themselves.
- Encourage other mentors in his life.
- Mark and celebrate milestones of manhood i.e. becoming a teenager, finishing school, learning his profession, marriage.
- Define the characteristics of a good man to your son e.g. responsibility, initiative, courage, values, service, integrity, caring and gentle strength.

The Fathering Project is not a counselling service; we are seeking to inspire and equip fathers and father - figures to engage with their children.



If you would like more information about The Fathering Project, you can contact me:
David Walker at dwalker@parkerville.org.au or 9391 1900.