



2

# How to...



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**Bath & Wells**

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## Engage boys more in your groups

When working with boys try different types of activities. You will quickly learn which ones resonate with them. Boys typically have a lot of energy, so appreciate activities that allow them to burn it off whilst at the same time bonding as a group. Boys can also enjoy quieter and gentler activities but be aware that you may need to try them more than once.

(None of these suggestions are meant to stereotype boys or exclude girls. It is also recognised that not all boys are the same and different boys may need different things)

- Recognise that males may engage better with different activities to females
- Ask dads, grandads and boys what would make your clubs and activities more attractive to them and their male friends
- Include images of boys and men on publicity
- Have some male leaders (ideally younger/teen leaders) and try to involve boys in helping to run activities
- Have a mix of activities with different learning styles such as:
  - Use science experiments – Pinterest is often full of ideas
  - Include competitions e.g. ‘Minute to win it’ games (search online to find examples)
  - Have construction type activities e.g. Lego, junk modelling, woodwork, mechanical stuff with moving parts (remember Risk Assessments and health & safety)
  - Go outside – do scavenging or treasure hunts, shelter building and camp fire activities
  - Do messy activities, such as e.g. slime making , clay modelling, painting or mud play
  - Include food based activities
  - Make sculptures from insulation blocks using hammers and chisels (safely)
- Include more action based sessions and/or include breaks where children can move around and have their own space.
- Actively target boys where possible, inviting groups of boys as well as individuals
- Encourage boys to come with dads or grandads

- Think about how you welcome boys, dads and grandads at clubs and activities

There are loads of links to activities online, here is a selection:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/sarahmomof4boys/activities-for-bigger-boys-age-8/?lp=true>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/kryzenga/boys-club-activities/?lp=true>

<http://www.housingaforest.com/engaging-activities-for-boys/>

For any further advice or help, contact your Archdeaconry based Go Team Adviser:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/children-young-people/>