



We envision a future where all boys – and the men they become - retain their natural capacities to be loving, caring and sensitive. We believe that early childhood educators and their professional child and family serving allies can help achieve this vision. Together we are changing the way we raise boys today, so that tomorrow boys thrive personally, socially and academically, and become men who are compassionate and accountable partners in families and communities.

Professional development for early childhood (age 0-5) and school-age educators (age 6-10), child care and family service providers, children's librarians, home visitation, and higher education programs that credential early childhood educators. What we offer:

Community Model: Selected leaders and staff from multiple organizations attend one-day training. Optional follow-up coaching is available.

Agency Model: Agency-wide staff attend one-day training. Optional site-based group-coaching is available.

Continuing Education: Earn .5 MAAEYC CEU's or 5 Training Hours for attending the one-day training.

Our Purpose

Promote social-emotional development of young boys by providing gender responsive training, coaching and resources to early childhood educators.

Approach includes

- **Unpacking the Man Box:** An experiential and group analysis of gender norms and stereotypes
- **The Cycle of Male Socialization:** Examination of healthy and unhealthy cycles of male socialization
- **Co-Constructive Storytime Model:** Group activity and teaching strategies with selected children's books
- **Coaching Sessions:** Group, site-based and virtual coaching options available (post-training)
- **Online Resources:** FAQ's, Tip Sheets, Discussion Guides, videos, links for continued learning
- **Program Evaluation:** Pre/post survey for all training participants (Agency Model only)
- **MERGE Children's Book Campaign:** Offers free books with positive gender themes

The Impact

"The real value in this training is how the learning applies to professional lives as well as personal lives. I couldn't have been happier to hear from one of our staff that this training immediately changed the way that she thought about and spoke to her son. It's powerful to know that a single training, which included deep reflection and critically important learning, can create a change in perception, simultaneously enriching our staff's skills as educators and their personal lives." – Head Start Staff

