

ETHOS

Amor et intellectus

What a Boy Wants

Building a Relationship

Man + Boy = Love

Interview with a MAP Ally

Ethos Notation - Issue 22

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In this fall issue of Ethos we are celebrating back to school, that fine time of year when parents are sending boys and girls to the classroom so they can be educated. And after an unbearably hot summer, a little cooler weather would be great, not to mention Halloween is just around the corner.

In my short time with Ethos we have gone through many changes, all for the better. In our recent changes we have added new members to our team and removed some as well, because we are pushing to make Ethos the very best it can be, always striving for perfection -- just like we are all doing every day.

We would also like to show the world that we are not the monsters they think we are. This is by making our beliefs and ideas known, showing that we are all humans who -- regardless of our past mistakes -- are actively working to better ourselves.

I would also like to thank all the readers, writers, and staff for keeping the dream of Ethos going. We appreciate all that you guys do, and we will continue to publish material devoted to the interests and perspective of boylovers.

Boiforever
Chief Editor

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<https://www.bet.com/article/xpw9gq-boy-called-hero-for-saving-a-toddler-from-drowning>

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BL VOICE

ZURCBOLZANO

"The article "Why Would a Boy Want to Have Sex With You" was very insightful. Even from a standpoint of someone trying to prevent sexual abuses, I think it's worth taking note of that perspective."

MARC194

"Great job, Ethos team! Well done as usual. I enjoyed the Soccerboy story in particular, and the excerpt from Loving Sander. Pictures of cute boys in swimsuits didn't hurt, either."

SLVRSPUN

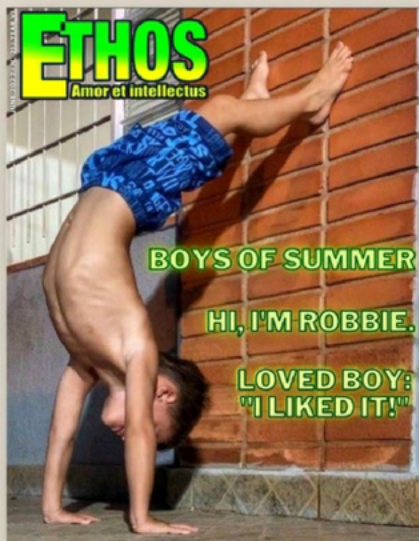
"Had me going with the Robbie story. Fictionalized story about a very popular model named Robbie. Just wish it were not fictionalized. Thought it was real at first, was disappointed to find out it was fictional."

CONNOR9213

"More boy pics would be welcome."

ETENNE

"I don't know why but something about that story reminded me of Robbie. I think it might have been the reference to blond hair. There is also the Robbie who killed Toby. I believe he said he was a kid who had been in porn. He also said he was a doctor, which isn't true. That was a long time ago and I don't know that anything that guy ever said was the truth. He was clearly a sociopath."



Comments, suggestions,
and criticism from readers

Ethos News

By ZoomZoom4 and Gary

UK BOY VICTIM OF DEADLY ONLINE 'HANGING GAME'

Don't let your young friend end up like this London 12-year-old.

Full article-<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/archie-battersbee-government-backs-un-180800603.html>



7-YEAR-OLD SAVES DROWNING TODDLER

He didn't hesitate to pull the drowning boy from the bottom of a California pool.

Full article-<https://www.bet.com/article/xpw9gq/boy-called-hero-for-saving-a-toddler-from-drowning>

HEROIC BOY RESCUES FAMILY FROM THEIR BURNING HOUSE

This 8-year-old saw his family trapped inside burning house and rushed inside to save them.

Full article-<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/hero-boy-recognized-for-saving-family-in-moncton-house-fire-1.6526586>



Ethos News

By ZoomZoom4 and Gary



LITTLE LEAGUE PLAYER SURVIVES FALL FROM TOP BUNK

An outpouring of support carried young Easton through his hospital stay.

Full article-<https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/news/little-league-world-series-player-easton-oliverson-who-fractured-his-skull-to-be-released-from-the-hospital/>

GIRLS IN CAR CRASH SAVED BY TEEN HERO

These girls are grateful for the teen-age boy who saved their lives.

Full article-<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/jul/06/us-teen-hero-rescue-mississippi-car-plunges-river>



12 YEAR OLD RUNS HIS OWN GRAVESTONE CLEANING BUSINESS

What a kind hearted and business savvy youngster. I'm sure his great grandma would be very proud of him.

Full article-
<https://www.tuko.co.ke/entertainment/gossip/430970-young-boy-cleans-graves-a-living-earns-ksh-2000-assignment/>



BASIC FACTS ABOUT BOYLOVE BY ADAM

BOYLOVE

Generally perceived wisdom is saturated with misinformation concerning sexually expressed boyhood relationships with older males, also known as 'boylove.' Some of these fallacies originate in academia from victimologically oriented social scientists and are then foisted upon the public by print and electronic media. Additional sources are religion, traditional superstitions, unfounded folk lore, various so-called 'child protection' groups and organizations, including the operatives who profit from the lucrative 'child sex abuse industry.'

There are also 'youth rights,' 'child love,' and similar factions who confuse and conflate the core issues of boylove with these other matters, making sometimes specious claims and posting confrontational 'manifestos' that serve no useful purpose. Even web sites and forums purportedly supporting boylove provide sometimes mixed and questionable messages.

This article is intended to refute the current myths, superstition, misinformation, exaggeration, and outright lies; to avoid the clutter of irrelevant tangential matters, and instead to address the foundational issues of boylove by offering rational and reasonable facts, sensible observations, and references to research which is free from victimological biases.

First, what is boylove?

In the broadest sense, boylove is the bilateral and reciprocal attraction between a boy and an older male; i.e., the love of a pre-pubertal or early adolescent boy FOR an older male, as well as the love of such a boy BY an older male; the latter typically manifested in a desire to responsibly protect, provide for, and mentor the boy.

These attractions, by definition, have at least a latent sexual component, which may or may not be actively expressed by mutual consent.

Are boylove and pedophilia the same thing?

"Pedophilia" derives from Greek words describing the non-sexual love of a child of either gender by any older person.

However, in everyday use it has been corrupted into a pejorative descriptor for those -- principally adult males -- who force their sexual attentions on unwilling children, and who are perhaps more correctly described as 'child molesters' or 'predators.' Such irresponsible behaviors are the complete opposite of those of the responsible boylover.

How many boylovers are there?

The short answer is that nobody knows. Some research indicates that as many as 30% of adult males exhibit a sexual response to boys, although they may never act on that attraction.

Surveys have found that some 17% of males had one or more sexual encounters as boys with an older person, most often another male, which amounts to some 20 million when applied to US census numbers of males 15 and older.

Other research indicates that the average sexually active boylover is involved over his lifetime with three boys, which indicates nearly 7 million boylovers in the US alone.

These are admittedly very tenuous figures, but they seem to indicate that the overwhelming majority of sexually expressed boy/older male relationships are known only to the two principals, with very few ever coming to the attention of authorities.

←

Are boys psychologically harmed by sexually expressed relationship with older males?

There is no valid empirical evidence that such relationships are intrinsically harmful to the boy -- so long as they are consensual. Any harm that occurs either is because the boy did not consent and was assaulted; or is the result of cultural taboos which generate inappropriate reactions by parents, teachers, social workers, police, the judiciary, etc.

Is a pre-pubescent boy capable of enjoying sex?

While boys cannot ejaculate until they reach puberty, they are capable of erections at birth. Self-stimulation is common, and even masturbation to 'dry' orgasm.

Boys typically investigate one another's genitals; this may involve mutual manual or oral (rarely anal) stimulus.

Young boys tend not to attach emotional significance to sexual activities -- for them these satisfy curiosity and are simply pleasurable games.

It is also not uncommon for a 10- or 11-year-old boy to seek out a knowledgeable (and interested) adult male for close guidance -- and very active participation -- in the boy's sexual investigations and erotic games.

Can a boy really consent to sex with a man?

There are widely divergent opinions on what constitutes consent, about different levels of consent, and if children (boys) can give consent.

One concept is that of the 'fully informed consent' required for entering into binding contracts, legal matters,, etc. Another is that of simple willingness: as in, does the boy "want to" do something that has no real consequences?

There is no valid evidence that sexual exploration with another party has consequences other than those invented and imposed by society. Therefore there are no reasons why a boy cannot be willing -- and thus give meaningful consent -- to engage in such activities.

About Being a Loved Boy

BY SPIKE

NOTE TO READERS: *This was originally published on Newgon Wiki in 2008, and has been re-printed with permission.*

My name is Spike, and I've just turned 17. I have enjoyed the love, nurturing, and training of a real boylover for several years. And in that time I have also discovered a warm and caring community of boylovers on the internet. I have also discovered a cruel and evil force that abuses both child and adult rights under the guise of "child protection." This is a cancer that has become rampant throughout society.

I am a computer nut and also consider myself a writer. If not that, then at least very literate. I am not into sports. I don't socialize with my peers much, nor do I entrust my education to the local school board.

My family consists of my mom, an ex-hippie who has pulled this family together during some really rough times and has a good head on her shoulders, my jock brother Randy, age 11, and my favorite brother Kevin, age 8. My male biological ancestor walked out on us seven years ago, so I've had a lot to do with my brothers since then.

When I was 10, I found myself a mentor, a wonderful man who needed me as much as I needed him. I'll call him "J." He is a retired college instructor, in the electronics/robotics/computer field. He retired when his campus was closed by federal cuts in student grants and loans. He takes care of his elderly mother now. He is currently not working full time, and is at the same economic level as we are. Everyone gets all over me when I use the "P" word (poor), so let me just say that my family appreciates what we have.

J has been the best thing that could have ever happened to me. Everything I am today, I owe to J. He and Mom are both educated people who believe that I must prepare myself for adulthood by learning how to learn. How to think for myself, and how to believe in myself. Important things in these times of oppressive control by society and government. I don't mean that J is a friend of the family. It's not at all like that. He is all mine. Mom sees the results of my association with J, and she could not be more pleased. In our family situation, there are not a lot of chances to be successful. There is no need to let fear and ignorance get in the way of common sense. Survival is an everyday challenge.



Back then I never did understand what J wanted from me. I mean, I understood what, "but not why." He wanted so little, but I was frozen with the fear of all these fairy tales about monsters and demons out there in society.

"Always trust your teachers."

"Always trust Mr. Policeman."

What a crock of shit they feed us. No wonder so many kids turn 21 and are still immature, insecure wimps.

J was the perfect gentleman, he never pushed. He always accepted my 'no' with grace. Yet he trusted me, and that meant more to me than I can possibly tell. The more he explained to me, the more he allowed me to discover the world of fact and reality for myself, the more I understood the value of someone like him. I was incredibly lucky.

Just when I turned 13, J was retired from his job. He took off for another part of the country, without plans to return. I wasn't in love with J. I'm not sure a straight kid can be as 'in love' as most boylovers would like to believe. I did my best to accept this development in my life with dignity. He left me with some 'tools of the trade' (books, hardware, software) and more knowledge than most of my peers. But the next two years were much more difficult than I had imagined, especially in my day-to-day routine. It's as though I was on my own again, unwillingly -- somehow 'all alone' in the midst of a busy family.

Last September, J returned as unexpectedly as he had left. His little business venture had failed. His friends elsewhere had fallen by the wayside, and his mother was needing attention. He was back, and living in the same little town. He did not have the money he had in the past, and had to live with his mother. But he was back, and I was determined not to make the same selfish mistakes I had made in years past. I was older now as well, understood myself better, and was not about to let old superstitions interfere with my happiness.

In this last year, we have both discovered the word 'boylover' -- and realized just how common this phenomenon is to the human experience. J has never been insecure or guilt-ridden, and he has been at this for a long, long time.

We have begun to realize the implications of 'internet for the masses.' I became active with the Web as my means of reaching out to others. J did little reaching out. He studied, trying to regain his computer skills after two years of being out in the country (offline). I feel a tremendous need to seek out more mentors, teachers. Those who will, at the least, function as a captive audience for a budding writer, and at the most be a warm, trusted friend. J supports me in this, although we had set up a strict set of 'safety rules' from the very beginning. I have many e-mail friends now, although some are less active, less involved in my life and my continuous string of little projects, than they once were.



In the time since I have gone online and talked about my experiences with an adult friend, I have had a few other 'loved boys' directed my way. They were sent either by friends or unknown lurkers, and I have been able to get a feel for their experiences and their attitudes. Maybe I can be of help to them; most certainly I can learn from them. I have encouraged them to write about their feelings.



This article is intended to show anyone concerned with the boylove question just where I have found my truth. There is very little exposure for boys who are contented with their situation. We don't show up in detention homes. We don't commit crimes. We are not forced to submit to the trauma of the "abuse industry." We are unknown and unheard. We are happy with our lives, if not with the society in which we must live. We are not brainwashed by religious zealots, or court-ordered oppression. We resent being told that our older friends are criminals. I wish more of us would speak up and be heard. It is necessary so that others realize just how slanted the government "research" is.

WE WERE NOT "ABUSED" AND WE ARE NOT VICTIMS.



THE VERY AIR

By ZoomZoom4

*The very air
In the room
Sang out ...*

*With our love
Being consumated
In joyous breaths ...*

*Man and boy
Together with
Such rythym
Sheer bliss ...*

*As I christened
His pink
Boyish rose ...*

*So gently
Lovingly
Passionately*





THE SEXUAL RIGHTS OF YOUTH BY ONYX

The central issue here, is that of sexual intercourse in adolescence and the attitude of society toward it. Young people have more than merely a right to be "enlightened." They are fully entitled to their emotional health and sexual joy in life.

This right has been taken away from them. Countless young people have lost all awareness of their sexuality, although this has opened the way to serious psychic disturbances during puberty. Therefore, we will not give advice "from on high," nor will we seek to "educate." Instead we will try to give a full and undistorted presentation of the true facts, to teach young people to understand the situation in which they find themselves and to show them that they must take matters into their own hands if they seriously wish to put an end to this misery. One does not beg for a right, one fights for it.

This is an excerpt from Wilhelm Reich's book, "Children of the Future: On the Prevention of Sexual Pathology," published posthumously in 1983, with the chapter heading, "The Sexual Rights of Youth." We spend a lot of time under the slog of mental health professionals who would love to medicate us out of existence. It's refreshing, then, to hear a voice from the same world so stridently pushing in the opposite direction.

- ***Quite the controversial figure in psychoanalysis, Reich was held in wide acclaim in the 1920s but eventually suffered one of the worst examples of government censorship in 1956, wherein more than six tons of his published works were burned before he was sent to prison, where he died of heart failure.***

Following is a summary of the origins of his work and its impact: Wilhelm Reich has given one of the most thorough analyses of the psychological processes involved in the reproduction of authoritarian civilization. Reich based his analysis on four of Freud's most solidly grounded discoveries, namely:

(1) That there exists an unconscious part of the mind which has a powerful though irrational influence on behaviour.

(2) That even the small child develops a lively "genital" sexuality; i.e. a desire for sexual pleasure which has nothing to do with procreation.

(3) That childhood sexuality – along with the Oedipal conflicts that arise in parent-child relations under monogamy and patriarchy – are usually repressed through fear of punishment or disapproval for sexual acts and thoughts.

(4) That this blocking of the child's natural sexual activity and extinguishing it from memory does not weaken its force in the unconscious, but actually intensifies it and enables it to manifest itself in various pathological disturbances and anti-social drives.

(5) That, far from being of divine origin, human moral codes are derived from the educational measures used by the parents and parental surrogates in earliest childhood, the most effective of these being the ones opposed to childhood sexuality.

The field or discipline of psychoanalysis, and the world of mental health in general, should be unequivocally supportive of us and our loves. Instead, they constitute today one of the greatest obstacles to our freedom, and a major cause of our dis-ease.

It is a travesty that Reich was punished for challenging. Despite the sobering account of Reich's personal life, which saw him slide into professional disrepute and then full-on paranoid delusions, his work has continued to influence educators, psychologists, and activists dedicated to overturning sexually repressive systems and attitudes.

To give a fuller impression of his ideas, I've copied some excerpts from Reich's "Children of the Future," and "The Mass Psychology of Fascism," as well as from A.S. Neill, the Scottish educator heavily influenced by Reich, author of Summerhill and founder of the free school by the same name.



"The moral inhibition of the child's natural sexuality, the last stage of which is the severe impairment of the child's genital sexuality, makes the child afraid, shy, fearful of authority, obedient, 'good,' and 'docile' in the authoritarian sense of the words. It has a crippling effect on man's rebellious forces because every vital life-impulse is now burdened with severe fear; and since sex is a forbidden subject, thought in general and man's critical faculty also become inhibited. In short, morality's aim is to produce acquiescent subjects who, despite distress and humiliation, are adjusted to the authoritarian order. Thus, the family is the authoritarian state in miniature, to which the child must learn to adapt himself as a preparation for the general social adjustment required of him later. Man's authoritarian structure — this must be clearly established — is basically produced by the embedding of sexual inhibitions and fear." [Reich, *The Mass Psychology of Fascism*, p.30]

The family is the most essential institution for this purpose because children are most vulnerable to psychological maiming in their first few years, from the time of birth to about 6 years of age, during which time they are mostly in the charge of their parents. The schools and churches then continue the process of conditioning once the children are old enough to be away from their parents, but they are generally unsuccessful if the proper foundation has not been laid very early in life by the parents. Thus, A.S. Neill observes that, "The nursery training is very [much] like the kennel training. The whipped child, like the whipped puppy, grows into an obedient, inferior adult. And as we train our dogs to suit our own purposes, so we train our children. In that kennel, the nursery, the human dogs must be clean; they must feed when we think it convenient for them to feed. I saw a hundred thousand obedient, fawning dogs wag their tails in the Templehof, Berlin, when in 1935, the great trainer Hitler whistled his commands." [Neill, *Summerhill: A Radical Approach to Child Rearing*, p. 100]

For those of us lucky enough to work with boys, these are the issues we are uniquely primed to address, the point in the process of dehumanization that we can interrupt.



*Man + Boy
= love*



WHAT A BOY WANTS

By Etenne

What a gay boy wants in a relationship with a man, is far different from what a straight girl wants.

In general, girls are looking for romantic affection, not necessarily sex. Though many might be willing to do sex in order to get that romantic affection, it's really not what they "ultimately" want. That doesn't mean they don't want to be touched or carressed and held.

What is age appropriate for a straight 16-year-old girl is likely pretty close to what is age appropriate for a gay 9-year-old boy.

Little gay boys often want romantic affection, depending on the boy. But they also really want sex.

A gay boy will be overjoyed if you give him a rose and take him to a romantic dinner, but will be very disappointed if he doesn't get the pay off at the end. Of course, there are a lot of boys, both gay and (more often) straight, that just want a "hook--up" and nothing beyond that.

There's an old pedo joke that goes something like, "The difference between a gay boy and a straight boy is that you don't have to cuddle with the straight boy afterwards."

There is a grain of truth to that.

INTERVIEW WITH A MAP ALLY

By Gary

NOTE: This is an interview between Gary, Art Director of Ethos, and his sister Mindy.

GARY: As an ally and a sibling to a MAP, what would you like to share with our readers and discuss with us today?

MINDY: I'd like to discuss a few points listed as follows: Firstly, the "fetishization of youth" topic. And secondly how, culturally, people tend to condemn innocent friendships between adults and children. Lastly, there is a double standard when it comes to media and content featuring predatory criminals.

GARY: Interesting. First question, though. What made you respond so supportively when I came out to you and what exactly made you an ally previously? I remember you as being one before I had even come out to you.

MINDY: I had done my fair bit of research into the subject after watching the "NAMBLA" episode of South Park. I probably had more knowledge than the average person. I realized that a lot of South Park takes are rather dumb. As a fan of Matt and Trey myself, I felt the NAMBLA episode was a poor portrayal of the organization. It sort of muddied the waters of what it stood for.

GARY: Agreed. I have plenty of gripes when it comes to South Park as well. Now, where do you even wish to begin on the mess that is the "fetishization of youth" discourse?

MINDY: I think people use the talking point to pseudo-justify minor attractions in their minds. Think "Stranger Things," "Matilda," and "Leon the Professional." People tend to get into this weird territory of telling kids and teens how they, especially young girls, can and can not dress. It's constant hypocrisy. So-called adult-attracted people will get uncomfortable seeing 17-year-olds appearing "attractive" by just expressing themselves. I see no difference between this and the argument of, "What was she wearing?" in rape cases.

GARY: Completely agreed. I'd love to hear you share your thoughts on how adult/child relationships are so heavily sexualized.

MINDY: For example, Michael Jackson's relationships with children came off as predatory to the masses. Or, even romantic to those in MAP communities. However, the idea of platonic friendships between adults and minors seems to not exist in many people's minds. This is due either to pedo-hysteria or simply MAPs wishing for representation, especially in media. This isn't the only example. It's one of the most heavily publicized and controversial, despite the claims of it being extremely unsubstantiated.

The idea of an older man not relating as well to people his age is viewed through a negative lens. In reality, companionship between an adult and a kid can be just as innocent and beautiful as friendships between two chronological children. I believe that serves as another element to prove that children are heavily intellectually and emotionally underestimated by the adults who claim to care about them.

GARY: Once again I agree and, I think that was worded wonderfully. Your thoughts on content regarding predatory criminals?

MINDY: I feel like I have a good point to draw home regarding this issue and its surrounding topic. That would be the "two-faced" hypocritical approach to "child-molesters." And, to those obsessed with the consumption of media that involves these crimes, especially rape cases. When we look at the case of Richard Ramirez, AKA "The Night Stalker," his crimes included many instances of child molestation. There are endless pseudo-moralizations from those who claim to find his actions disgusting. Yet, they have no issues when it comes to consuming media that, borderline, seems to glorify him and his crimes. That's lifting him to some nearly rock star-like status. A good example of this is the Night Stalker Netflix series and the amount of blood money it has generated for the company. Despite the fans, once again, dishonestly framing themselves as "objective researchers" who are "only interested in the case."

GARY: You do make a good point there. Once again, thanks for doing this interview with me. Any final thoughts before we conclude?

MINDY: In conclusion, I think there's still a lot to be done in terms of the current demonization of people who struggle with an attraction that is still not well understood. As well as those who deserve basic human rights and the dignity afforded to every regular citizen. Hopefully, we begin seeing more progress soon.



LOVE LETTER TO THE MALE CHILD

By ZoomZoom4

Never take your young friend for granted. Always appreciate him. Furthermore, make sure to always SHOW appreciation for him. Find opportunities to actively demonstrate your love for him.

A man should express his love for a boy through both word and deed. A man says, "I love you" to a boy, and then -- ideally -- the man shows how much he truly loves that boy with action.

It's easy to forget that many of our BL brothers -- in fact, probably most -- have to suffer through their entire lives without a boy to love.

Because, after all, what does a boylover do? Simply put, he LOVES BOYS.

But what if there is no boy for him to love?

What do you call a boylover without a boy? Miserable, that's what. Unhappy.

Everybody's looking for love. Some of us don't even know we're missing it until a 10-year-old boy walks into our life and changes everything. Suddenly the grass is greener, the sky is bluer, the birds are chirping, the bees are buzzing. The world is a beautiful place, filled with laughter, smiles and joy.

This is what boys bring to the world, and into our lives: joy. Happiness. LOVE.

And so much of the pleasure of being a boylover is to live our lives in tireless service of boys. Here we stand, mouth agape, in sheer awe at these amazing, wonderful creatures. BOYS. Even the word itself is beautiful.

The desire -- no, the NEED -- we feel, to improve the life of a young boy, to improve his world in some way, any way, even just making his day better. Making him smile. A boylover spends the rest of his day glowing from the buzz of making a boy laugh, hearing his delightful pre-pubescent voice sparkle with happiness.

Not a day goes by that we don't marvel at the wonder of boys, and thank God for the umpteen millionth time for bringing male children to the world.

Stop and take yet another look at that boy in your life. See him for who and what he really is: Beauty, brilliance, and joy. A smile generator. The secret of love, and the entirety of God's divinity, all in one 4-foot 8-inch package.

Next time you see a 9-year-old boy, tell him that you love him. Show him that you love him. Make his world better. Do something, anything, to improve his day in some way.

As boylovers, we know that little boys are objects of beauty and admiration, and as such are deserving of endless praise, respect and adoration. It is our absolute pleasure to proudly revere the most wonderful and divine of all God's creations: MALE CHILDREN.

BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP

By Kipling

Building a relationship with a boy is like dating. It's a dance of boundaries, and of testing those boundaries. As a result, you become closer and learn to trust one another. This involves both physical and emotional exploration.

Look at your parents. Unless your parents are Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, most people are not lining up to fuck them. Yet somehow, someone did want them and they did end up with someone. They probably dated multiple people throughout their lives. GASP! If we had to conform to the ideal of Greek beauty, no one would get laid.

If you aren't the pedo equivalent of Mr. Pitt and Ms. Jolie, the same rules apply to you. Unless, of course, you're a big Twitch streamer or something. However, I can guarantee that there are boys out there who will want you, and want you in THAT way. And yes, some of them are quite delicious looking.

Just like usual hetero dating, you are going to meet a shitload of people. Most of those you meet will just be acquaintances, maybe, if that. A few will be good friends, and with even fewer, you may develop a connection with. It's a numbers game, after all. And as mentioned before, it is a dance. There's an art to the development of the interactions that evolve between two people. It just takes some practice to be able to see how two people jive.

There's no special 'magic' to it.

Given, of course, that you act like a decent human being, and treat people with kindness and respect, they will respond positively. If you genuinely love them and show it, they will love you back. The more you do this, the more confident you will become. Your success rate will go up exponentially. Just like a 12-year-old might be terrible with girls at first, most 22-year-olds aren't. You will gain experience and learn the dating dance. It's just the same with boys.

It's just like how your mom and dad's attraction and relationship evolved beyond looks long ago.

Boys will want different things from you, depending upon the person. Similarly, you will want different things from your boy beyond his looks. Many of us have definite types: sporty, smart, quiet, bad boy, affectionate, humorous, and so forth. Your dad may like your mom for her tenderness and your mom may like your dad's thriftiness. What you may want from your boy will often be different from what your boy will want from you. But that's how relationships work. After all, do you want the same thing from your friends as they do from you?

It is indeed risky, in the current social climate, to engage with boys and build connections. The general situation is that boys you truly connect with will understand who the good guys are. They will know intuitively to whom they can be loyal. In other words, boys that you have a solid, genuine relationship with will often protect you because they love you.

The alternative is that you can live your life miserably, being an angry, frustrated BL. One who is afraid to be what he truly is, and to love who he truly loves. Someone who denies himself a worthy and happy life.

What it comes down to, is not thinking of boys as magical creatures beyond comprehension. But rather as human beings with whom you may build a relationship. Just as you would with a friend, with a man, or with a woman. Treat them well. Learn who you can trust. Then love them. You will find beautiful boys, kind boys, who will love you. You can be true to yourself, and each other, and be happy.



BOYS OF CHILD'S PLAY: FRANCHISE REVIEW

B y G a r y



CHILD'S PLAY (1988)

This is likely the one most Ethos readers (especially the 30+ crowd) have seen. Written by Don Mancini and directed by Tom Holland, this thriller is great for little boylovers who want to watch something spooky this season, especially without seeing young protagonists being harmed (at least not physically). Starring Alex Vincent as Andy Barclay, this 6-year-old gave an absolutely incredible performance, alongside the iconic Brad Dourif as the voice of "Chucky" and Catherine Hicks as Andy's mom.



The plot centers around mass murderer Charles Lee Ray using a Voodoo spell to transfer his soul into the body of a popular toy, the "Good Guy Doll," as a quick escape attempt. Charles soon ends up in the hands of Andy as a birthday present, and murders quickly begin happening. Andy and/or his mother become the prime suspects as Chucky slowly reveals himself to everyone who catches on. After murdering his partner-in-crime Eddie (who abandoned him in the initial police chase at the beginning of the film), his main goal becomes transferring his soul once more, but into Andy's body, as the only way out of his doll form is by doing the same spell on whomever he reveled his true identity first.

Not much I can say about this one other than it's an absolute 80's classic. The film has been reviewed to death and I don't think I can add much more useful commentary. I very much enjoy the physiological horror elements, especially in regards to mom Karen losing her sanity over dealing with such a frightening situation that seems completely impossible to everyone around her. The cinematography is great, the special effects were very good for their time, and let's be honest, Andy is just cute as hell. We also get one of the best lines in horror history: Chucky just casually saying, "I got a date with a 6-year-old boy" and smiling, after he just murdered a man. Truly iconic.

CHILD'S PLAY (2019 Remake)



This one is very controversial among the fandom for a few reasons. Don Mancini, the writer of the original film, was displeased with this even being made in the first place, and understandably so. It was after a years-long battle over the ownership of the first two films by MGM and Don himself. He was even asked to work on this remake and as you can imagine, he declined. This movie certainly does not stay true to the original and a large part of the fandom isn't fond of it, to say the least.

It stars 12-year-old Gabriel Bateman as Andy, and was directed by Lars Klevberg and written by Tyler Burton Smith. The contrast in tone is quite jarring. Instead of the focus being on Chucky (which increased even more throughout the seven films following the 1988 original, him practically being the main character in a few), it's heavily centered around Andy and his friends, with a "Stranger Things" type of vibe.

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It tries to modernize the plot by using technology instead of possession. A disgruntled employee who worked for the multi-national Kaslan Corporation on the "Buddi" dolls (a Chucky-looking version of Amazon's "Alexa") decides to press a couple of buttons (no, I'm not even joking) that will cause the robotic toy he was currently working on to murder people and be capable of deep intellectual thoughts, before jumping out of a window and killing himself. Yes I know this already sounds awful, but once again ... Gabriel. Need I say more?

Andy's mom, Karen (played by Aubrey Plaza), ends up black-mailing her boss at the department store she works at, into giving her a Buddi doll in order to cheer up a hearing-impaired Andy. Her son is not too keen on her new boyfriend, still missing his deceased father. The dynamic between Andy and his mother is quite cute and one of my favorite aspects of the film. I'm not a huge fan of Child's Play 2 myself, but the relationship aspect (between Andy and his foster sister Kyle) is the film's saving grace for me; I can almost say that about this movie as well.

Andy ends up bonding with the doll, as he does not have any friends at the beginning of the film. That dynamic is also quite cute. After witnessing the abusive habits of Karen's partner and watching a horror movie with Andy's new found friends, Chucky begins murdering people, starting off with the family cat after Andy gets scratched by it.

I won't spoil too much but don't expect a lot from this movie other than an incredibly handsome boy and a few really good acting performances. The writing doesn't hold a candle to the original. However, unlike most of the fandom, it's hard for me to hate this movie; I find there are many enjoyable aspects of it. Give it a shot, especially if you're into 12-year-old Gabe.



CHUCKY (2021 TV Series)

Now here's where we get to my favorite on this list. Our younger readers are most likely more familiar with this one. I'm keeping spoilers to a minimum here. This series was written and directed by, of course, Don Mancini. Starring 14-year-old Zackary Arthur (an absolute dreamboat and the closest I think a boy can be to being considered a "hunk" while still having that boyish charm) as Jake Wheeler, a quiet, artistic, gay boy who enjoys making sculptures out of retro toys he collects. He lives in Hackensack, New Jersey (Charles Lee Ray's home town) with his widowed, abusive father (Devon Sawa). He ends up, of course, getting his hands on a Chucky doll. Not to spoil any of the other films for you but this is some of the only context needed if you go into the show blind. The murderer is now able to possess more than one doll/person at the same time, and ends up trying to bond with Jake and help him deal with his problems, one being his crush on his cousin Junior's friend, Devon.

Devon has his own "true crime" podcast and lives with his single mother (Rachelle Casseus) who works as a detective. Devon is also queer, and Junior doesn't mind that fact in the slightest but he bullies his cousin for it, and for his interests, relentlessly.

Something I didn't know until looking it up just now, is that Devon Sawa also plays Junior's father (I have to say, his acting is amazing). And Junior is also very fixated on gaining his father's approval, such as being successful at cross country running when it isn't something dad much cares for. His father is also dating Lexy, played by Alyvia Alyn Lind, who gave quite a good performance despite her dialogue being the worst written in the show. Most of the writing is fantastic; however, with her I didn't feel it was top notch.

Lexy is Jake's main bully, and by "bully" I mean insanely cruel. A lot of this is in part due to neglect from her family. Her father (Michael Therriault) being a stay-at-home dad who focuses most of his attention on Lexy's little sister (Carina Batrick). If you go to watch this with a little girl lover friend, they'll have eye candy, trust me. She's very talented as well. And her mother (Barbara Alyn Woods) stays busy as the town's mayor.

There are many returning characters. Brad of course, reprising his role as Chucky, Jennifer Tilly returns as his wife, Tiffany Ray. Alex Vincent is back as a much older Andy, and Kyle (Christine Elise) from the second Child's Play film is back alongside him. We also see the return of Nica, played by Brad's daughter, Fiona Dourif. She also plays a 20 to 30-year-old version of Charles Lee Ray in some flashback scenes. The makeup team did incredible, and so did Fiona.

It's campy and funny, with tons of good kill scenes, very heart warming/breaking at times, and super suspenseful. This is classic Mancini. As a huge fan of the franchise I'd recommend you watch all the films and this series, but I think even though some context will be missing, you'll really enjoy watching it this spooky season.

P.S. There's a few other cuties in this one I didn't mention, either. Watch and spot 'em yourself.

The Importance of Family Support During Incarceration

By *DragonLover*



Being on disability benefits and unable to work, I have a lot of free time. That free time is spent generally with my four dogs or streaming TV shows or movies. Having been involved with America's legal system on more than one occasion, I tend to lean towards real-life court TV shows. One that I recently binged was aired on the A&E network called, "The Accused: Guilty or Innocent?" This show featured someone who was accused of a very serious crime and their journey to a disposition of the case.

One thing that I noticed was the fact that out of a total of 14 episodes in total, 13 of those episodes had the accused having families and friends that loved and supported them throughout their terrible ordeal. Fact: In America, a person gets arrested EVERY 3 SECONDS. Crazy, right? Anyway, most of the people in this show had family support, known as a "support system" by professionals.

When I was incarcerated, I would see guys coming in who were accused of much more serious stuff than I was, and they had 100% full family support. These families would come to visit religiously, put money on their loved ones' jail accounts, and regularly write to them. To me, this had a profound effect on the accused. Psychologically, these visits and letters were a great help to these guys. It boosted their morale a great deal and helped them do their time a bit more easily.

Now, there were a few that didn't have that luxury. Some were arrested and incarcerated, and they lost the love and respect they had come to expect from family and friends. I was, unfortunately, one of those few.

My story begins in 1999. As some of you know, I was arrested for the first time and then brought in for a very serious child sex crime. I won't get into the legal stuff; that is a whole other story. I'll just focus on the family stuff.

After I was processed into the jail, a day or two later I tried calling my sister. No answer. I tried multiple times throughout the day. No answer. I tried the next day and my brother-in-law answered. He knew who it was in advance because there is an announcement when they pick up: "This call is from an inmate at the Bucks County Correctional Facility. Press 1 to accept this call or 2 to reject."

He had to have pressed 1. To say the conversation didn't go well would be an understatement.



"Hey, Mike, it's James. Is Sherry there?" I asked.

"Yes she is, but she's not going to talk to you. You vicious child molester! How could you?! Do you know how you have ruined this family?! Faggot! Fucking child rapist! I hope to hell you rot in there!!" And with that, he hung up.



Really, that is the whole conversation. And here is what you need to understand: I was innocent of the charges they had brought against me. I did not do what they were saying I did. But the charges were there and being investigated. I needed to explain to my sister, who at the time was the executor of my parent's estate, what was going on with this.

I called my stepfather as soon as I got to the jail and very quickly told him what was going on. He was at the house when I was arrested, so he knew a little bit. I had called from the admission counselor's office and told him the rest. He was mortified and dumbfounded. He also took on the attitude, instantly, that I was a child molester, but also threw in the guilt trip of, "Jesus Christ! Thank God your dear mother isn't here to see this. It would kill her!" But he did as I had asked and called my sister to tell her what happened.

Now I can certainly understand how they must have felt. Sure, I get the anger and anguish. I get it. They had every right to be unhappy with this thing. Really, I get it. But my parents raised us to believe that no matter what, family always sticks together.

And that's what I didn't get. I was surprised at my family. It really did take me by surprise how they were handling this.

So my next step was to try writing a letter to both my sister and my stepfather. I wrote them both, explaining things as best as I could. I told them everything I knew up until that point. I mailed those letters and waited. I got a reply from my stepfather first. Here it is. I remember it because I had read it so many times that I memorized it.

"Yes she is, but she's not going to talk to you. You vicious child molester! How could you?! Do you know how you have ruined this family?! Faggot! Fucking child rapist! I hope to hell you rot in there!!" And with that, he hung up.

James,

This will be my last letter. If you ever get out, you'll need to make other arrangements for a place to live because you aren't staying here. I had your mail stopped at the post office to have it forwarded to that place. James, you have ruined us. How could you do such a terrible, terrible thing? It was in the newspapers. The neighbors saw it. The people here that I called friends no longer even look in my direction, much less to me.

I am probably going to sell this house because I am a piece of shit to the people here because I married your mother. I don't regret marrying her. I loved her. And I thank God she wasn't here to see this. This would have done her in. In any case, please don't write me any more letters or try calling me. I won't bother answering. I am through with you.

- Jim

That was the first one. The following day I got a letter from my sister. I memorized that one as well.

Dear James,

Listen to me. What you have done is awful. Mike has taken to drinking heavily again, and you know he has an alcohol problem. Jim is inconsolable. You ruined that poor man by getting arrested at the house. He says the neighbors don't talk to him anymore. He told me the other day he was in the market at checkout and he heard someone saying there's that guy who lived with that child molester they arrested. Ruined. He feels like he has to move out. I told Jack what was going on. You don't want to know how he's feeling about this.

James, you need to understand this. We are still your family and we love you. We always will. But we absolutely cannot have anything further to do with you, ever. We will never be visiting you in that place. You are not to try writing to me or any other member of the family. You are not to try calling anyone, either. I will not have you inflicting any further damage to this family than you have already inflicted. That's all I have to say.

- Sherry

Those are the two worst letters a guy can get after getting incarcerated. They held true to their word, too. No one ever came to visit. All phone calls were rejected, and no one ever responded to a letter again. The part that I don't understand is, "We love you but cannot have anything further to do with you." I don't see how that is possible.

During the whole five years that I spent in jail, I thought about my family every day. I missed them terribly. Yes, even though they said those awful things to me, I still loved them and missed them. It made my stay a lot worse than it should have been. I would see my jail buddies every weekend getting showered, shaved, and ready for a nice visit with their family. Two hours later they would come back and tell me how it went. I would envy them something terrible. I would be smiling as they told me how it went; maybe a little joke this one's dad told him, or a funny little thing that one's daughter said. But inside I was weeping like a child.

Ethos readers, I just want to tell you: If you know someone who is in jail, please try not to judge them too harshly. Whether they committed the crime or not, you need to be there for them because most likely they are probably at the lowest point in their life than they have ever been. You have the right to be angry with them, sure. Anger is understandable. But please, by all means, don't turn your back on them. They may or may not have done something wrong, but we are all human, and we all make mistakes. Some mistakes are bigger than others, but mistakes nonetheless.

Your support is of the utmost importance. You may not be able to fully understand what they allegedly did, but you must be there for them and support them. You may not be able to put money on their account. But, a simple letter from home can mean so much more than any money. I can tell you from first-hand experience, that doing a lengthy jail term with zero support is hell on earth. That is something that no one should have to endure.

The Mysterious Boy

By JungleBOY12

Hi, my name is Max. I'd like to tell you a story that happened to me not too long ago. I was 15 and in high school. And everything seemed pretty normal for me; that is, until one day when I went to school. Everywhere I went, I saw someone looking back at me, even in all my classes. And by "someone," I mean a little boy. If I tried to tell anyone about him, they would always never believe me. It's like he kept disappearing whenever I wanted to tell someone about him. And that didn't make me look good at all. Even my friends started to think that I was just making it all up for some reason – or that I was just seriously losing it.

And then I saw him again in my 6th period class, just walking by as I sat there at my desk I was trying to copy what was written on the blackboard, but of course I couldn't take my eyes off of this beautiful sight before me. I was too distracted by what appeared to be a ghost of an 8-year old boy, running around playing with no one else that I could see. He was completely naked, running around and giggling, as if someone unseen by my eyes was tickling him.

I smiled and laughed at him, and was rewarded when the boy (with his blond hair and baby-blue eyes) then seemed to notice me for the first time.

"Hi," he chirped, in his cute little boyish voice. "Do you want to play with me?"

"I can't right now," I replied. "I'm in science class. Maybe some other time, okay?"

"MAX!" I nearly jumped out of my skin. It was my teacher, Mr. Johnson, a man in his forties, yelling at me because he had nothing better to do – like grading papers or something. And then everyone else in class started laughing at me as I came back to reality.

I looked around the room and found that the boy was gone again. Students still laughing at me, I decided it was best if I just let it go for now. The boy wasn't even there. I'm just losing it, that's all, I thought to myself. But why had I been seeing him all day, then?

"Max," my teacher said, "If you can't keep your mind on your work, then you can just go to the principal's office. You are disturbing the class. And I will ask that you be suspended for the next few days. Today is Friday, so I don't want to see you until next Wednesday."

He wrote a note and told me to show it to the principal. As I started towards the door, I heard someone say,

"Later, freak." The class all laughed at me again.

Then the teacher said, "Keep it up, Mr. Anderson, and you'll be joining him." With that, I walked over to the door and looked back at Anderson. He glared at me with so much hate in his eyes.

I opened the door and smiled broadly at Anderson – right before I gave him the finger. As a really pissed-off Anderson jumped up out of his seat, I ran out the door and went on my way.

"I'm gonna get you, motherf – !" He paused at the sight of the teacher standing nearby.

"Don't you dare finish that sentence!"

"But ... "

"I don't want to hear it! Get out of my class – right now!"

Anderson hesitated. "But ... "

"Now!"

Anderson left the classroom and went right out of the school building, without even stopping by the Principal's office first..

Later that night ...

I told my parents about the naked boy I kept seeing in school, but they didn't seem to believe me either – like I was just making it all up for some reason. I mean, why would I do that?

Then the mysterious boy kept coming to me at night when I was in bed, asleep.

"Will you play with me?"

I took the covers off me and sat up on the side of the bed, wearing nothing but my underwear. I looked at him for a second and asked him curiously, "Why are you always naked?"

"Why aren't you? It's really fun to play naked. Come on ... let's play!"

"Alright, I'll play with you. But then I've got to get some sleep. So what do we play?"

"Wrestling!"

"Wrestling?"

"Naked!" he squealed, gleeful.

"Geez, what's up with you being naked all the time? Alright, as long as I get some sleep after." I took my underwear off and we began playing with each other. Soon we were laughing and having fun, very loudly. I didn't even realize. So loud in fact, that it woke dad up.

He opened my door and saw me totally naked, in an awkward position. I was holding the 8-year-old boy down with my body, and my hands were holding his arms to the floor.

To my horror, the mysterious boy said, "He was about to kiss me, you jerk!"

"Shut up!" I said to him.

Dad: "Excuse me ... ?"

"No ... I wasn't talking to you, dad."

"I hope not. Just keep it down, will you?"

"Yes, sir."

"Oh, and son?"

"Yes, dad?"

"Tomorrow we're going to have a little talk about how to masturbate. Because what I just walked in on was ... just ... weird."

"Okay. Night, dad."

"Night." He shut the door behind him and went back to his room.

"Well, that was really uncomfortable." I turned to the boy. "He didn't hear you. He didn't even see you!"

"Of course he didn't," the boy said.

"You really are a ghost, then," I exclaimed, incredulous.

"Okay, now you're a cop and I'm the bad guy. You have to chase me now!"

"No, it's bed time." I walked over to my bed and got under the covers. I looked over and saw the boy pouting because I wouldn't play with him. Then I said, "Do you want to spend the night?"

His face lit up with excitement. "Yes!" I pulled the covers back and he ran right over and jumped in the bed, giving me a really big hug.

At least no one would even see him if they walked in on us. My life was about to get even better. We would sleep cuddled up together – me and this beautiful boy, both of us naked in bed together, kissing. Sometimes lots of kissing. I was in love with this 8-year-old boy-ghost. And he obviously felt the same way about me. And yes, there were many more nights like this to come.

One night I asked him what his name was. He kissed me on the lips and laid back down beside me. And then he said, to my surprise, "I'm Max."

"But that's my name."

He rolled over and cuddled with me as he began to fall asleep in my arms.

All of a sudden, I felt like I was in the Twilight Zone, or something.

And now, years later ...

I'm 35 now. I learned a while back that I have a gift for talking to people who have not crossed over yet. And it was my job to help them do that.

"Hello, Max. Are you there?"

"Yes, I'm here. Do you want to play?"

I looked at naked 8-year-old boy. Beautiful as ever. "Yes, Max. I want to play. And then I'm going to help you go home."





ABC

By Gary

10 Ways to Help a Boy with Back-to-School Blues

Got a bummed out boy in your life? He's not too excited about back-to-school time? Going back to school after a carefree summer of fun can be rough on any boy, but especially if the boy in your life faces challenges such as bullying, learning disabilities, or a difficult home life.

Regardless of what your boy may be facing, here are some ways to help him chase away those back-to-school blues, and maybe even get him excited for a new year full of learning and adventure.

1) DO A NORMAL ACTIVITY YOU BOTH ENJOY, ESPECIALLY AN OUTDOOR ONE

Depending on where you live, the weather might be cool enough to finally go on a hike. Whatever you and your young one enjoy the most, make sure to treat him to it before the school year begins. And try to take advantage of the nice weather, if possible. Good examples of this are long walks, biking, outdoor sports, etc.

2) BUY HIM NICE-LOOKING (AND MATCHING) SCHOOL SUPPLIES

"Buy cute stationary," seems like advice you'd give to someone with a young daughter, I know. However, studies have shown that having pleasant-to-look-at and coordinated school supplies can help the mind stay more focused and encourage productivity. Buy your boy some stationary themed around his favorite show, movie, or video game. Or pick a color he likes and get supplies themed around it.

3) LUNCH BOX SURPRISES

If possible, a sticky note with a nice heart-felt message in his lunch box can be a great pick-me-up. Be careful not to make it too infantilizing or cutesy, depending on the age. You don't want to embarrass the poor kid! Even a simple inside joke between you two, written down, can do the trick. Just something to remind him that he's loved and cared for. Or, if you don't pack his lunches, sending a nice text can mean just as much.

4) MAKE SURE HE LOVES HIS BACKPACK

After all, every great adventurer needs something to carry his important belongings in. If you want to splurge on anything for a boy, make sure it's a backpack he picks out on his own and enjoys. Be sure to check online as well. He might be surprised to see his favorite, but not well-known, super hero character on a backpack.

5) SENSORY OR FIDGET TOYS

People assume that toys such as Tangles, fidget cubes, marble meshes, etc. are only for children with ADHD or autism. However, these are shown to reduce stress and help focus in many neurotypical adults. They're like stress balls but much more fun. Buying or even making some that you think your young friend would enjoy can do wonders. But be warned: a lot of schools do have rules against fidget spinners. I'd make sure to avoid those if you expect he'll be playing with them in class.

6) PLAN SOMETHING FUN FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND

After the school week is over, make sure to give your young friend something to look forward to. A movie night and ordering pizza? A trip to the skate park? Whatever it is, be sure to make it extra fun. He deserves a reward after all that hard work.

7) MAKE CERTAIN HE'S CONFIDENT AND UNDERSTANDS WHY HE'S AT SCHOOL

Making sure your young friend goes into that first day fully confident, is key to a successful school year. It's also important to make sure your little guy has his priorities in order. Assure him of how smart he is, and that regardless of whatever interpersonal drama he may encounter, he is there to learn. Making friends is also important; however, being "popular" or being well-liked by everyone, certainly is not. The only things he'll carry with him through these years is the knowledge he's gained and the friends he's made along the way.

8) ENCOURAGE HIS PASSIONS

Boys who aren't particularly excited about most school subjects, often feel discouraged when they don't have as much time as they'd like, to work on their craft. That could be music, a sport, something artistic, etc. Suggest joining after school clubs, or in-school ones, for things he's interested in. It's very important for young people to explore their interests, even if it's something the school system itself portrays as less valuable. It'll also give him something exciting to look forward to and make the whole school experience seem less frustrating.

9) REMEMBER TO BE THERE FOR HIM EMOTIONALLY

Your boy needs you, regardless of his age. Whatever friend drama that may seem silly to you, or rude teacher he has to face, you should always try to be there as a shoulder to cry on. Advice and guidance is very important, but always remember that no matter how tough the exterior may seem, young boys can indeed be sensitive (or, at least, have their moments). Having your routine change from nothing but downtime to a rigorously set schedule, and being around people you may or may not get along with for 8 hours a day, can be taxing on anyone -- mentally and emotionally. Make sure to check in extra, and LOVE extra.

10) CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

This may be a tricky one for some, and something you must be careful with, depending on your relationship with the boy in question. Becoming a volunteer, at least temporarily, can help your young friend tremendously. Especially if the boy is going to a new school, he'll feel much safer knowing there's an adult he can trust and cares for him on site at all times. Of course, letting a boy have his independence and teaching him such is a necessity, but it's something to consider if the situation calls. Plus, why wouldn't you want to be around the boy you love just a little extra?

