
**About the author:** Gurian is a therapist and educator who worked extensively with families, school districts, churches, and criminal justice agencies [book jacket].

**Summary:** American boys face a moral emergency: we have the most violent non-war population of children in the world, about 90 percent of the violent acts committed per day are by males, young males make up 80 percent of the drug-addicted and alcoholic youth, and the suicide rate has increased over the last decade, mainly among young boys. These figures indicate that our boys are in trouble and need parental attention to grow into fine young men, according to the author. Gurion thus calls for a moral and ethical revival in the pursuit of raising our sons. His book provides practical guidance for parents to direct their sons in becoming compassionate, responsible men.

Drawing upon the writings of the late Harvard psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg and of the Swiss theorist Jean Piaget, who investigated the development of moral reasoning abilities in childhood, Gurian provides easy-to-follow advice to parents. Gurian’s “Good Parenting Plan” provides parents with a structure for developing and implementing boys’ moral and ethical training. The plan offers practical ways to modify family life toward creating the best environment for helping boys to become “fine young men”—which alludes to the title of another of Gurian’s popular books on parenting adolescent males. While parents, relatives, coaches, and teachers can provide guidance in the moral education of boys, parents have the ultimate responsibility. Gurian's goal is for parents to instill ten universal moral competencies: *decency, fairness, empathy, self-sacrifice, respect, loyalty, service, responsibility, honesty, and honor*. The author encourages parents to be persistent in exerting their responsibility rather than relinquishing their influence to social institutions.

**Reviewed** by Margaret J. Stokes. Margaret earned a B.A. degree in chemistry, and a former student at Northern Illinois University