



**Title: Gender: Boys, Girls and Stereotypes**

**Level: THIRD**

**Code: 3.6.1**

**Links to Curriculum for Excellence**

Experiences and outcomes	Benchmarks
<p>I understand and can demonstrate the qualities and skills required to sustain different types of relationships. HWB 3-44b</p> <p>I recognise that power can exist within relationships and can be used positively as well as negatively. HWB 3-45a</p> <p>I know that popular culture, the media and peer pressure can influence how I feel about myself and the impact this may have on my actions. HWB3-46b</p> <p>I am aware of the need to respect personal space and boundaries and can recognise and respond appropriately to verbal and non-verbal communication. HWB 3-45b</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates respect and understanding of the diversity of loving and sexual relationships, for example, LGBTI relationships, marriage, living together, co-parenting.</li> <li>• Explains the impact an imbalance of power can have on relationships, including sexual relationships, for example, consent, coercion, responsibility for actions and decisions.</li> <li>• Identifies and explains influence/impact of media, including social media and pornography on self-esteem and decision making.</li> </ul>

**Learning Intentions**

- Young people learn about gender.
- Young people consider gender stereotyping.
- Young people view themselves as unique individuals.

**Success Criteria**

- Young people describe themselves positively and can talk about their unique attributes and interests.
- Young people can describe how gender stereotypes impact on individuals and populations within society.
- Young people understand and accept diversity amongst peers.

**Resources to support this activity**

- PowerPoint slides
- Men/Women stereotype work sheet.
- Boy’s don’t cry <https://youtu.be/lZyHCT-hdNs> (duration 47 seconds)

## Activity

1. Introduce the activities as being about being a girl or a boy, and about how we can all be the kind of girl and boy we want to be, free from what we might call stereotypes – so the first question, *what's a stereotype?* After some discussion, share the slide.

A **stereotype** is an idea that people might have about a group of people based on how they look on the outside. When you stereotype people this is wrong, because what is on the outside is only a small part of a person. Sometimes, what you might think about a group of people might be true for some of them, but to say they are **ALL** something (and especially something bad) then that's a stereotype.

2. Ask the young people to work in pairs or 3s *with a large piece of paper (A3<)*, ask the young people to fold it down the middle and then open it up again. On one side ask the groups to list all the stereotypes they can think for girls and women, on the other side all the stereotypes they can think of for boys and men. Encourage them to consider stereotypes about **how people look, how they behave, what they think, what they are good or not good at....** If it helps get a few examples to get everyone going.
3. After some time, get feedback – identify as you go what relates to behaviour, looks, emotions, aspirations.... Discuss where something might be true of some people (a girl that likes fashion, a boy that likes football) and ask when does something become a stereotype? Explore: What's the harm of stereotypes?
4. **Exploring stereotypes.** In the slides 3 classic gender stereotypes are highlighted. Share and discuss one by one – some might be funny... but what impact do they actually have?
  - The first slide is the children's nursery rhyme – how does such a view limit or impact on children?
  - The second is a claim about 'women drivers' and so about women's capacity or skill to do something – share the myth then the truth. What power do such claims have over people's confidence? Do the young people ever feel limited or lose confidence because someone says 'oh you're a girl/boy and they don't do that....'
  - The third example is about expressing emotions, about boys being told to 'man-up' with a short film challenging this and the need to help boys/men be emotionally healthy. Have some discussion: Where does such a stereotype come from? What impact does it have on boys and men?

a)

### **Nursery Rhyme**

#### **What Are Little Boys/Girls Made of?**

What are little boys made of?

What are little boys made of?

Frogs and snails,

And puppy-dogs' tails;

That's what little boys are made of.

What are little girls made of?  
What are little girls made of?  
Sugar and spice,  
And all that's nice;  
That's what little girls are made of.

b)

**Women are worse drivers than men.**

(Truth: According to the insurance business women have fewer accidents than men, and their claim amounts are lower. As a result, women pay on average 3% less for auto insurance than men)

c) **Boy's don't cry**

<https://youtu.be/lZyHCT-hdNs> (duration 47 seconds)

5. Having explored the stereotypes, introduce the next slide along these lines – so, the opposite of putting people in boxes and making decisions about them just because you know their gender is equality (share and discuss responses):

**What is equality?**

Equality is about making sure that every person has the same chances to make the most of their lives and talents.

It is also the belief that no one should have poorer life chances because of the way they were born, where they come from, what they believe, or whether they have a disability. Equality recognises that certain groups of people like girls/women, LGBT people, people with disabilities or people from Black/Minority Ethnic communities have experienced discrimination.

6. **Who do I look up to?** Ask the young people to think of a man or a woman they look up to. Someone who helps them to think about being the best woman or man they want to be. What do they make them feel? Aspire to? It can be someone in their family, someone they know or don't know, someone who is famous. Ask those who would like to share who they pick. The young people could source pictures and create a gallery.
7. End with the slide:

**There are no rules about how to be a girl or a boy - be who you want to be.**

**Connecting with home**

*The text below could be used to communicate with home about the activities in this short block of learning.*

As part of our RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood) learning, we are exploring gender. The young people will learn that they can be whatever kind of girl or boy they want to be – with interests and ambitions that show them to be unique individuals. In our learning across lots of different subjects and activities we want girls and boys to be and feel equal and treat each other with respect.

We will also learn that some people would like to have a different gender from the one they have been brought up in, this is called being transgender. Children will see and hear about these things in the media or from others and so it is important we give them good information and allow them to ask questions. The overall message for the young people is that in our class we are all different, unique and special and that we should treat each other with care and respect.

**Further learning activities are available that connect to this RSHP curriculum content**

- 3.6.2 Gender: More about Gender/What is Transgender?

**Practitioner Notes**

