

# Gender

## Learning together about gender

Welcome to the unit called **Gender**. This unit is part of our programme of learning called Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) education. When we do our RSHP education we focus on the needs of each and every learner in the classroom. We want to develop their communication, cognitive, physical and self-help and independence skills.

When it comes to the topic of gender/sex then learners with complex additional support needs can be supported to build awareness of gender/sex as part of their individual identity, and may build understanding or awareness of the gender/sex of familiar people.

Learners with complex additional support needs, as we describe and understand these learners, will not have the capacity to understand that society can stereotype or discriminate against or limit a person based on their gender/sex. However, all children and young people still experience the world around them and can face limitations or stereotypes based on who they are. We adults can challenge this and support them to live life to the full, be they boys/men or girls/women. We can do this by:

- Buying toys or clothes that the child likes or needs, rather than things that are *for girls* or *for boys*.
- Resisting buying clothing that is overtly *for girls* or *for boys*. This is especially true for girls who might not be able to play, get messy or have fun in clothes that are restrictive.
- Introducing both boys and girls to all sorts of experiences and play, taking on board what they prefer/like and can manage in terms of the sensory experience. So, for every child we adults can think of creative and arts-based play, indoor and outdoor, building and making, rough-and-tumble, quiet and contemplative.
- Encouraging all our children to be caring and kind.
- Encouraging and supporting friendships with both boys and girls.

It is important for learners that there is a close relationship between school and home when it comes to learning. This will help make sure everyone works together to promote independence and wellbeing.

With the right level of support and resources children and young people who take part in activities as part of the **Gender** unit will learn:

- That they are male or female.
- That familiar people are male or female.

You will find the unit about gender here: <https://rshp.scot/complex-asn-draft/>