

GETTING RID OF GENDER STEREOTYPES IN SCHOOLS: WHEN WE ALL CONTRIBUTE, EVERYONE WINS!



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Children, transgender youth and non binary gender expression in the school environment: Understanding to better support

Training – Gender Creative Kids Canada

School name
Logo



Setting the stage...

The Whittington Family: Ryland's Story



DEFINITIONS AND BASIC CONCEPTS

WHAT IS TRANSIDENTITY?



GENDER CONCEPT

Forensic
Category

Man

Transgender

Intersex

Woman

GENDER IDENTITY

Individual
experience of gender

GENDER EXPRESSION

Externalization of
gender identity

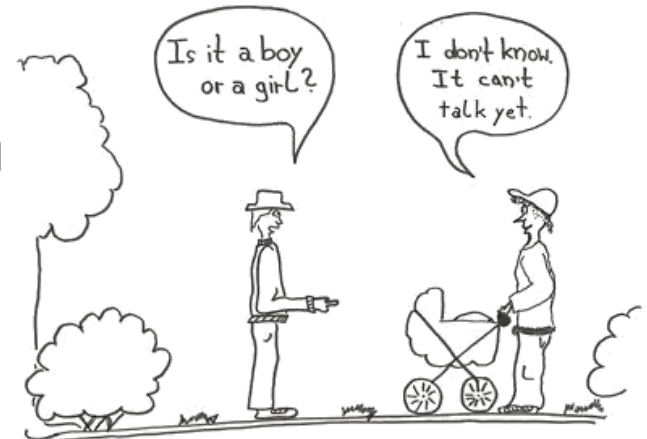
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Intimate relationships
with others

GENDER CONCEPT

Forensic category

- 🖐️ Sex Chromosomes: XX, XY, XO, XXY, XXX
- 🖐️ Sex Glands: ovaries, testicles
- 🖐️ External genitalia:
penis, scrotum, clitoris, vulva
- 🖐️ Hormones: estrogen,
progesterone, testosterone
- 🖐️ Binary Categorization: passport,
driver's licence, Medicare card, permanent
code, etc.



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Transgender

Intersex

Woman

GENDER IDENTITY

Individual
experience of gender

Man (cisgender,
FtM/AFAB)

Trans*/
Questioning

Non- binary
gender/Neutral
/Queer

Woman
(cisgender,
MtF/AMAB)

GENDER EXPRESSION





Externalization of
gender identity

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

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GENDER IDENTITY

Individual experience of gender

-  Refers to the identity, not the sex of an individual
-  Refers to the individual experience of the person
-  Set from childhood, but may vary during one's life
-  Some cultures conceive gender identity on a scale rather than binary
(bispiritality in some indigenous cultures)

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GENDER EXPRESSION

Externalization of
gender identity

Masculinity

Gender creative/
gender fluid

Androgynous

Femininity

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Intimate relationships
with others

GENDER EXPRESSION

Externalization of gender identity

- 👤 Way of expressing gender identity to others
- 👤 Gender expression of a person is often based on "man - woman" (binary pattern)
- 👤 Most conform to the binary pattern, but some do not see themselves as being so stereotypically male or female, but possibly a combination of both or neither

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SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Intimate relationships
with others

Heterosexuality

Homosexuality
Gay/Lesbian

Bisexuality
/Sexual fluidity
/Pansexuality

Asexuality

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

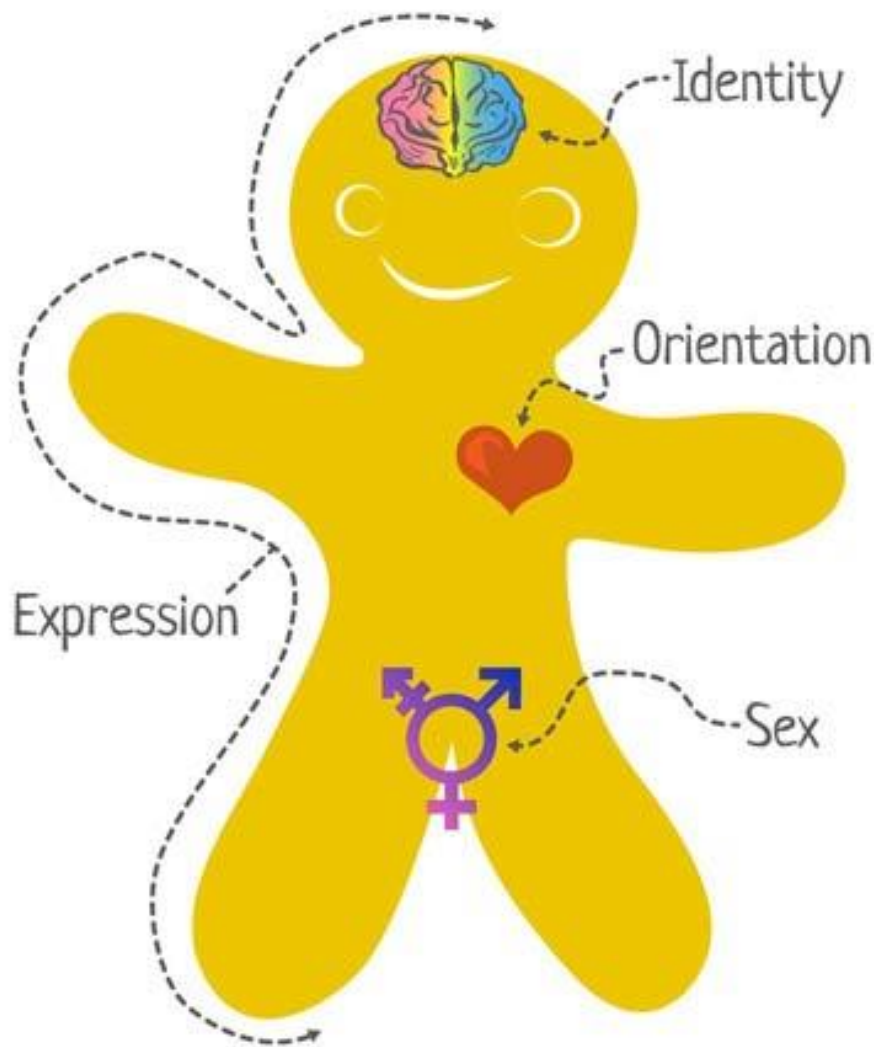
Intimate relationships with others

- 👤 Emotional and / or sexual attraction to individuals of a different gender, of the same gender or several genders
- 👤 Sexual orientation and attraction may also change during one's life



The Genderbread Person

by www.ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com



Gender Identity

Woman

Genderqueer

Man

Gender identity is how you, in your head, think about yourself. It's the chemistry that composes you (e.g., hormonal levels) and how you interpret what that means.



Gender Expression

Feminine

Androgynous

Masculine

Gender expression is how you demonstrate your gender (based on traditional gender roles) through the ways you act, dress, behave, and interact.



Biological Sex

Female

Intersex

Male

Biological sex refers to the objectively measurable organs, hormones, and chromosomes. Female = vagina, ovaries, XX chromosomes; male = penis, testes, XY chromosomes; intersex = a combination of the two.



Sexual Orientation


Heterosexual

Bisexual


Homosexual

Sexual orientation is who you are physically, spiritually, and emotionally attracted to, based on their sex/gender in relation to your own.

Is gender non-conformity normal?

 Several studies recognize that gender non-conformity is not problematic as such, but that problems are caused by a lack of acceptance from society in general

(Isay, 1997, Ghosh, 2012, Saketopoulou, 2011)

 « being transgender [...] or independent in gender identity is a question of diversity, and not a mental illness »

(World Professional Association for Transgender Health, 2011)

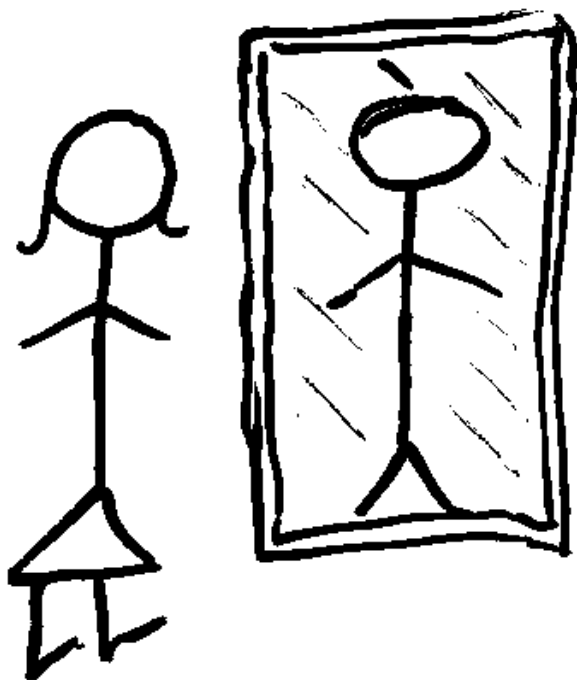
DSM5: depathologization since 2013

Gender variance amongst children : statistical findings

👤 Children explore gender up to age 6 to 7

[Ehrensaft, 2011]

👤 More precisely, a new study reveals that *2.7% of youth identify as trans and/or gender non conforming* [Riley & al, 2018]



The asserted identity of a child who has transitioned is as anchored as a cisgender child's identity

(Olson, Key & Eaton; 2015)

Each has the right to self determination of
their gender identity

When a child expresses the need to transition...

**'CONSISTENCE, PERSISTENCE,
INSISTENCE'**

[American Psychological Association]

- Social transition
- Legal transition
- Medical transition



GENDER DIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS: SCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR TRANSGENDER AND GENDER VARIANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH






What we know...

- 👤 Victims of psychological distress
- 👤 Some don't feel supported at school
- 👤 They are more at risk of developing addiction to alcohol or other drugs
- 👤 They are 7 times more likely to attempt suicide in comparison to cisgender youth

77% have contemplated **suicide**; **43%** attempted.
Among them, **78%** were under 24 years old and
36% were under 15 years old
[Bauer & al; 2013]

What we know...


(continued)

-  One of the most vulnerable populations; these children and youth face disproportionate difficulties as opposed to children their age
-  **More** susceptible to encounter situations of discrimination, bullying/cyberbullying and violence
-  Overly represented in homeless populations

How gender variance is likely to be experienced at school...

- 👤 Physical and verbal confrontations
- 👤 Social and cultural exclusion
- 👤 Lack of friends
- 👤 Being mocked daily
- 👤 Feelings of fear, desperation and isolation
- 👤 Lower academic results
- 👤 School drop out (15%) (Grant & coll. 2011) or no longer planning on furthering their education
- 👤 Avoiding places that are "at risk" (bathrooms and locker rooms) because these places are not well supervised

Resilience factors for trans & non binary youth

 Access to resources and school staff (or other) that are supportive and that promote a transaffirmative approach (Pullen Sansfaçon & coll., 2018)

 Attitude of school administration;

 Role of teachers and school staff;

 Talking about transidentity and gender creativity in class
(Veale & al., 2015)

 Access to health care and to community organizations (Pullen Sansfaçon & coll., 2018)

Resilience factors for trans & non binary youth (continued)

 Access to a solid support system

 Circle of friends

 Strong family support decreases suicide attempts among trans youth by **93%** (Travers & al., 2012)

However, parents must not only 'accept' or 'tolerate' : they have to be 'engaged' and not 'neutral' about their child's situation (Pullen Sansfaçon & coll., 2018)

SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR GENDER DIVERSITY AT SCHOOL!







How to support transgender and non-binary children and youth

- 👤 Learn their preferences ('out' or not, pronouns, first name), respect them and bring awareness to others
- 👤 Encourage them to use the bathroom of their choice
- 👤 Identify a safe, reliable adult as a go-to person
- 👤 Promote communication between the parents, the child and the establishment to make the child feel safe



How to support transgender and non-binary children and youth

(continued)

-  Organize social activities for LGBT people, set up a committee that includes allies.
-  Modify the school's motto/policies in order to explicitly take into account the needs of these children and youth
-  Ensure student files comply with legal practices
-  Respect privacy of the person, whether they be 'out' or 'stealth'

Practical suggestions

 Divide groups alphabetically rather than by gender

 Use a more inclusive vocabulary

 Avoid gender stereotypes

(what is for a girl or a boy? as long as it is suitable for a child, it is for every child)

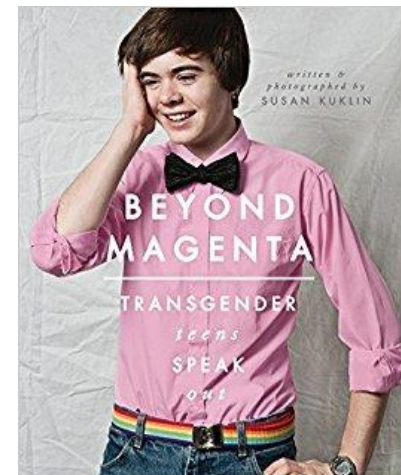
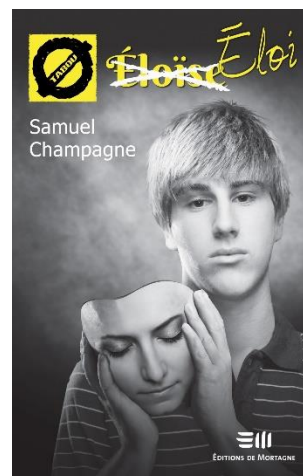
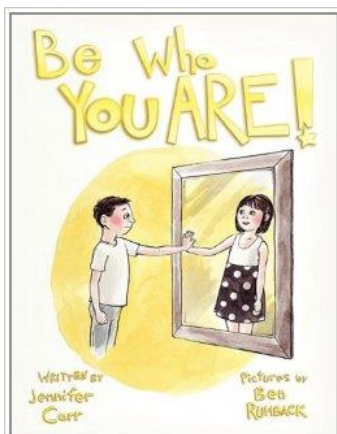
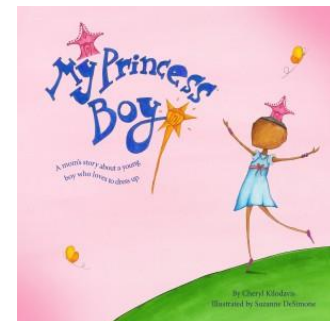
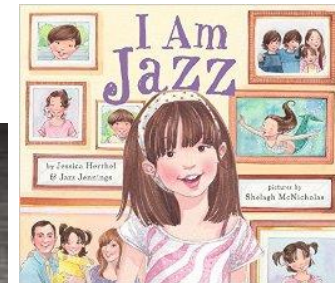
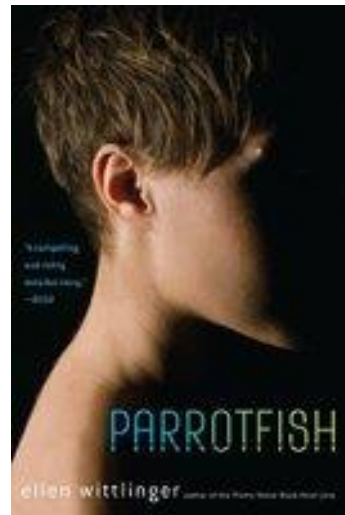
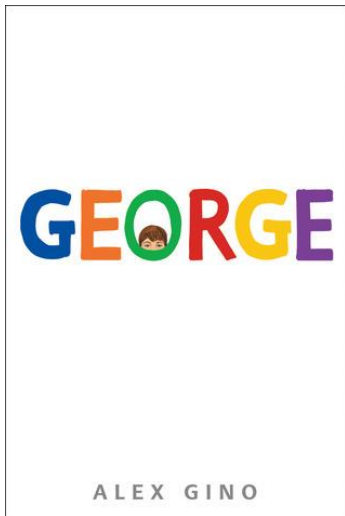
Talk about transphobia, homophobia, sexism, discuss different daily issues

May 17th is the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia ; a perfect opportunity to plan an awareness on this topic!

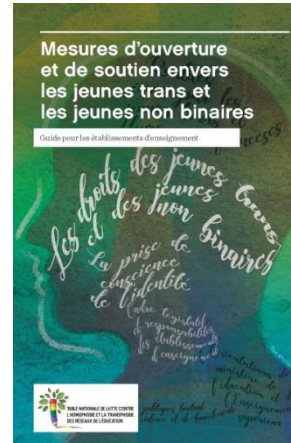


Non-sexist youth literature

IT IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO RAISE AWARENESS
ABOUT GENDER DIVERSITY!



SOME RESOURCES



TEL-JEUNES
www.teljeunes.com
1 800 263-2266

Meyer et Pullen Sansfaçon (2014)
Supporting transgender and gender creative youth. Peter Lang. New York

Matériel pédagogique, répertorié par cycle d'étude, visant à célébrer la diversité:



<http://www.diversite.lacsq.org/ressources/>

Gender Creative Kids Canada:

gendercreativekids.ca



Vous cherchez des ressources?

Naviguez dans notre bibliothèque pour trouver des ressources pour les parents et tuteurs, éducateurs, professionnels et jeunes trans. Nous avons des articles, brochures, manuels de références, fiches, livres, DVDs, liens internet et plus! Pour des ressources en anglais, cliquez sur l'onglet 'english'.

[Lire la suite »](#)

Ehrensaft, D. (2011)
Gender Born, Gender Made: Raising Healthy Gender-Nonconforming Children



Brill et Pepper (2008) **The Transgender Child**



HELL♥SAM

CREATED FOR 'THE YOU INSIDE' PROJECT, THIS VIDEO ILLUSTRATES THE STORY OF SAM. THE GOAL OF THIS CLIP IS TO DEVELOP EMPATHY TOWARD TRANSGENDER YOUTH.



If you retain just one thing...

Adopting a **TRANS-AFFIRMATIVE APPROACH** means supporting the development of the child's gender identity instead of attempting to modify it.

RESPECT



PRONOUN AND NAME



WASHROOM AND LOCKER ROOM



ONE'S PRIVACY



ONE'S CONFIDENTIALITY





Fédération des professionnelles et
professionnels de l'éducation
du Québec (CSQ)



TABLE NATIONALE DE LUTTE CONTRE
L'HOMOPHOBIE ET LA TRANSPHOBIE
DES RÉSEAUX DE L'ÉDUCATION



Coalition des
Familles LGBT
LGBT Family Coalition



Gender Creative Kids
Enfants transgenres
C A N A D A

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS?

Justice
Québec 

lg2

