



Gender Identity and Expression

Pre-Visit Activities

Pre-Visit Discussion: Gender Stereotypes

Gender stereotypes tell us how people who identify as girls or boys should act, dress, and look a certain way. These stereotypes can make people feel bad for doing the things they like to do and for being who they are. As a class, brainstorm some ways that we can break gender stereotypes. Who are some well-known characters from books or on television that break these stereotypes? Describe the characters you like best.

Click these resources for understanding key terms and concepts

GLSEN Key Concepts and Terms

NPR Guide To Gender Identity Terms

Pre-Visit Activity: Identity Clouds

Materials:

- White paper
- Colored paper
- Pens or pencils
- Scissors
- Tape or glue stick



Instructions:

1. Cut a big cloud shape out of white paper, almost as wide as the piece of paper. Write your name in the middle of the cloud (see photo for an example).
2. Cut out different colored strips of paper. Your strips should be about the size of a marker.
3. Chose seven things that you feel make you who you are and write them on the colored strips of paper.
4. Tape or glue each strip to your cloud (see photo).

Identity words might include: school, neighborhood, gender, spirituality, ethnicity, family, things you like and dislike, or anything else you'd like to share.



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Post-Visit Activity

Post-Visit: Integrate LGBTQ stories into your classroom

Integrate books with diverse positive gender representation into your class or school library.

Suggested books:

Auntie Uncle by Ellie Royce (Grades K+)

George by Alex Gino (Grades 4+)

I Am Jazz by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings (Grades K+)

Julian Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love (Grades K+)

The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher by Dana Alison Levy (Grades 4+)

Prince and Knight by Daniel Haack (Grade 1+)

Red, A Crayon's Story by Michael Hall (Grades K+)

The Whispers by Greg Howard (Grades 5+)