



Pride

A kit about LGBTQIA Pride and gender expression.

Everyone's gender is unique to them. How you see yourself and how you want to express your gender is personal -there is not just one way to be.

Things, like toys and clothes, don't have genders - people have genders.

You can't tell a person's gender just by looking at them.

Your body doesn't determine your gender.

Tips for Parents:

- Be proactive about talking about gender; you don't need to wait for your child to bring it up or for an incident to arise.
- Ask questions--this is a great way to hear the ideas kids already have about gender.
- Talk about yourself, or things you encounter related to gender, so that children can express their thoughts without having to talk about themselves.
- When you see media depicting gender, ask questions that encourage critical thinking: "Why is the mom the one making dinner and serving it?" "Who is strong in that show?" "Who is kind?"
- Be conscious about how you praise kids. Girls are often praised for their clothes or hairstyle, or for being sweet or kind, while boys are often praised for being big, or tough or independent. If you hear this type of praise coming from other adults, think about joining in with other types of praise.
- Question and explore your own biases. For example, how do you feel about boys who wear nail polish, and girls who want to shop in the boy's department for clothes? What messages about gender expression were you given as a child?
- Mix up gender language when reading stories to your kids.
- For most kids, experimenting with gender will be just that - exploration and play. For some kids, though, it may feel more intense. If your child is insistent about their gender in ways that are outside of societal norms, they may be telling you something.