

ALL ABOUT ME: DO GIRLS & BOYS FIT IN BOXES?



Lesson Objectives:

- To help promote positive expectations, aspirations and identities for both girls and boys.
- Children will be given the opportunity to explore the physical and behavioural differences between boys and girls.
- Children will learn to challenge the gender stereotypes and social assumptions.

Key Messages:

This the first session will introduce the programme to the children and explain what we will be covering over the next few days. This lesson focuses on unpicking the ideas of what we expect girls and boys to be like, behave and can achieve. There is currently massive disparity between our expectations of girls and boys. Evidence shows that by the age of 7-8 children, girls especially will already gender jobs. They will say there are certain things that they can't do because they are girls - because they aren't strong enough or not clever enough....

These messages are just as damaging to boys too, they grow up learning that they need to show that they are tough, that they are not scared, worried or anxious...

This session unpicks our stereotypes of both girls and boys - and show that children, regardless of their gender identity simply do not fit into boxes.

Closing:

Today we explored what we expect girls and boys to be like. But we realised that just because you happen to be a girl or a boy doesn't automatically mean you have to like certain things or can't do certain things... Girl's and boys don't all fit neatly in the same box. And you can grow up to do anything you want to do.

CARRYING ON THE CONVERSATION AT HOME:



Watch the equal pay Sit together and talk about the children's response in the film clip.

When you are out and about notice how girls and boys are represented in adverts, TV shows, even the clothes that are offer.... it is never too young to encourage children to view the world they live in critically.

Have you ever listened to how other adults treat the girls and boys they come into contact with. The compliments they give or the activities they encourage. Think about how adults respond when a child falls over... do we respond the same to little boys and little girls....? A little boy playing with a dolly is not 'gay' he is watching the men around him and practicing being a daddy... just a thought...

At one time people thought there were specific jobs that only men could do, and jobs that it was expected only women should do. Things like being a mechanic or engineer were male jobs, where as caring jobs like looking after children or being a nurse were considered jobs for women. Men would get paid more than women. But nowadays people are much more open-minded and we have realise that men and women are equal and should be treated and paid the same.

Useful Links:

- Watch the Equal pay clip here.