



What Are Gender Stereotypes?



Stereotypes are ideas about how people will act, based on the group to which they belong. Stereotypes usually involve assuming that all members of a particular group have, or should have, a certain characteristic; for example, thinking that all tall people are good at basketball or that thin people do not eat enough. **Gender** deals with whether someone is male or female. Gender identity is about how someone expresses his or her gender. Despite the many roles men and women play in today's world, some people still judge others based on how they think males and females 'should' act.

Gender Stereotypes Activity

Directions: Think of as many gender stereotypes as possible to write, or draw, inside each square. How are all girls/boys supposed to behave? What are they supposed to like or dislike? How are they supposed to look, think and feel? What are they supposed to be good at?

Boys 	Girls 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dislike pink● Love sports● _____● _____● _____● _____● _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Love pink● Play with dolls● _____● _____● _____● _____● _____

Now think of some things that a girl or a boy like that would be considered outside of the box. What might make a girl or boy outside of the box of the stereotype? Write or draw your ideas.

 Boys	 Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● like flowers● hate sports● _____● _____● _____● _____● _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● like motorcycles● Play with cars● _____● _____● _____● _____● _____

Being inside or outside a box are gender stereotypes, or ways that other people think men or women “should” act. These stereotypes might be unfair or limiting to children as they grow up and decide what they like to do, what careers they strive for, what sports they want to play, and so on. How might a boy feel if he wears pink clothing to school and people make fun of him? How might a girl feel if she wants to play basketball and boys tell her she can’t? It is important to accept others who may not fit stereotypes.

Over the next few days, pay close attention to gender stereotypes in TV shows you watch or books that you are reading. Talk about the stereotypes that you notice with adults in your life.