

Literacy, language and gender

Top tips to tackle gender stereotyping through literacy and language in the classroom

Challenge gender stereotypes when they arise and turn them into an opportunity for discussion and learning.

Use inclusive language and challenge phrases or descriptions such as 'throw like a girl', 'lady like', 'boys will be boys', and 'girly'.

Avoid steering children towards certain books. **Let them make decisions** about their interests freely and encourage girls and boys to share stories.

Organise library shelves and book corners by theme such as adventure, comedy, diaries or science fiction and **avoid 'boys' or 'girls' labels**.

Choose books, poetry and non-fiction texts written by a **diverse range of writers**.

Offer a **wide variety of books** with a diverse range of characters.

Ensure that author visits are **representative of the local community** and the wider world.

Representation matters, so ensure pictures and images on display depict a wide range of people, reflecting the school community and the wider world.

Raise the aspirations of children by regularly providing a **range of role models** via books, the media, and people from the local community.

Use creative writing to explore, discuss and challenge gender stereotypes.

Create a **culture of acceptance**, ensuring that the school is a safe place for children to learn, have their voices heard and feel supported in their choices.

Allow children to **try out roles** that interest them in school plays and performances.

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