



# Challenging gender stereotypes



# Session objectives

The aims of today's session are:

- To understand what stereotypes are
- To explore why gender stereotypes can sometimes be unhelpful
- To think about how we can challenge stereotypes

**Question: What  
is a stereotype?**



# What is a stereotype?

**A stereotype is when people assume things about someone else because they are from a particular group of people. These things are often untrue!**

Sometimes stereotypes are based on what we have been told, sometimes they are messages we get from other places, such as in shops or on TV.



# What do you think of this video?

Watch this video - what do you make of its message?



# Gender stereotypes

Gender stereotypes are when people make assumptions about people **based on their gender** which are not based in the truth.

Can you think of  
any examples?



# Toy stereotypes

girls toys

All Shopping Images Videos Books More Tools

About 2,290,000,000 results (0.65 seconds)

Ads · Shop girls toys

Products Comparison Sites

VTech 193853 Kidizoom Du... £39.99 Amazon.co.uk 30-day return... By Google

Top Model Make Up ... £6.95 Wicked Uncle ★★★★★ (63) By Productc...

Pretend Play Makeup Set... £19.99 Amazon.co.uk By Google

Vtech Hope the Rainbow... £64.99 JD Williams ★★★★★ (87) By Google

Vtech Hope the Rainbow... £64.99 Fashion World By Google

VTech Kid... £44.99 Am... 30-... By

boys toys

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About 1,910,000,000 results (0.45 seconds)

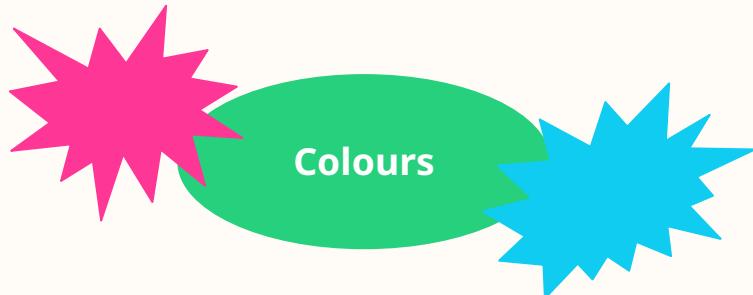
Results for **St John's Wood, London** · Choose area

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fun-Toys-Boys/k=Fun+...>

Fun Toys For Boys - Amazon.co.uk



# Other gender stereotypes



# Why are these gender stereotypes?

Gender stereotypes can come from what we're told in the TV we watch, the shops we buy things from, or the stories we hear, and **sometimes this can be unhelpful.**

**Your gender does not mean you automatically like certain things such as colours, clothes, toys or activities.**

Every person is different and has their **own tastes, likes and dislikes that are unique to them**, no matter what their gender is!



# What if I like the stereotypical things?

For example, what if you are a girl and you like to play with dolls?

Or you're a boy and you like to play with cars?

**There is nothing wrong with that! You can be you, exactly as you are!**

The important thing is to **be respectful and kind to people who enjoy different things to you!**



# The impact of gender stereotypes

What impact do you think it would have if you were only allowed to like things or take part in things because of your gender?



# The impact of gender stereotypes

**What impact do you think it would have if you were only allowed to like things or take part in things because of your gender?**

**You might feel that there are things you can and can't do, or that there are things you should or shouldn't enjoy!**



# The impact of gender stereotypes

Gender stereotyping can impact all of us, sometimes stopping us from doing certain things to “go along with” the stereotype. For example, gender stereotypes can impact:

- What toys children play with
- What clothes they feel comfortable wearing
- What jobs adults feel they can do
- How people feel they can behave

**When someone does something that challenges a stereotype (e.g. a boy playing with a doll) they are sometimes treated unkindly - it's important to always be respectful of what other people enjoy, even if it's different from you!**



# People who challenged gender stereotypes



Matthew Bourne - a ballet choreographer

How have these people challenged gender stereotypes?



Dutee Chand - India's fastest woman



Edward Enninful - former editor of British Vogue fashion magazine



# People who challenged gender stereotypes



Sally Ride - one of the first women in space

How have these people challenged gender stereotypes?



Billy Porter - an American film and TV actor



The Lionesses - England's Women's football team



# How to challenge gender stereotypes

- Don't listen to people who say you can't do things "because you're a boy" or "because you're a girl"
  - If you enjoy it, go for it!
- Remember to be respectful of what other people enjoy
  - It might be different to what you enjoy, and that's ok!
- Challenge stereotypes when you hear people talking about them
  - Ask people why they think something is or isn't right for you



# Activity: Create your own stereotype-busting superhero!

Draw your own stereotype-busting superhero!

Think about what their superpowers are and what they like doing and add to your drawing

Add labels to your drawing that show what your superhero can do!





## LGBT+ resources for schools:

[www.facebook.com/groups/lgbtinschools](https://www.facebook.com/groups/lgbtinschools)

[www.justlikeus.org](https://www.justlikeus.org) | [@JustLikeUsUK](https://www.twitter.com/JustLikeUsUK)

