

(Before starting this activity you may, as a class, wish to read page 15 of our book *What Does LGBT+ Mean?*)

Divide the children into small groups or work as a class.

Each group has a large sheet of paper divided in half (one half labelled 'male' and the other 'female').

Ask the children to make notes, on each half of the paper, on the clothes, activities, professions and behaviours that are stereotypically associated with boys and girls/men and women.

Then lead a discussion:

- How might stereotyping affect what a person wears?
- How might stereotyping affect how we behave?
- How might stereotyping affect our life choices?
- Can stereotypes stop a person from fully being themselves?
- What would you say to someone who wanted to break out of stereotyping but was nervous about being different?

People Who Break Gender Stereotypes

Gather some pictures of people who break out of gender stereotypes in terms of their gender expression (appearance) or their profession. You may wish to show pictures of...

- Billy Porter (Actor)
- Jaden Smith (Actor/Rapper)
- Harry Styles (Singer)
- Olly Alexander (Singer/Actor)
- Demi Lovato (Singer)
- Luther Christman (Nurse)
- Grayson Perry (Artist)
- David Bowie (Singer)
- Haarnam Kaur (Motivational Speaker)
- Ada Lovelace (Computer Pioneer)
- Hedy Lamarr (Inventor)
- Charlie Martin (Racing Car Driver)
- Maggie Aderin-Pocock (Scientist)
- Jeeno Joseph (Dancer)
- Savannah Marshall (Boxer)
- Dominic Skinner (Make-up Artist)
- Shiva Raichandani (Performance Artist)

Discuss

- In what way are these people breaking free of gender stereotypes?
- How does it make you feel when you see these images? (Encourage respect for people's gender expression and choice of profession – children don't have to want to do it themselves but should know it's ok for anyone to break gender stereotypes).
- Can the children think of anyone else who breaks gender stereotypes?
- What slogans or words might accompany these pictures to encourage people to do what they want to do regardless of gender?

'Be Yourself' Posters

Following discussions on gender stereotyping, facilitate students to make a poster or collage encouraging people to be themselves. The poster/collage might include:

- Pictures (real or imagined) of people breaking out of gender stereotypes.
- Slogans that encourage people to be themselves.

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