

Checklist for a Gender Inclusive Classroom

Fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students is essential for their academic and social-emotional well-being. This checklist provides educators with a roadmap to create a gender-inclusive classroom that celebrates diversity and respects the unique identities of every student.

- Use inclusive phrases to address your class that are gender neutral such as, “Good morning, everyone” “Good morning, scholars” or choose and use a name for your class like the Dolphins or the Owls.
- Develop classroom messages that emphasize “All children can... (dance, cook, have short or long hair, do math, make art, like specific colors.)”
- Group students in ways that do not rely on gender such as table groups, letters in their names, or colors of their clothes. Avoid situations that force children to make gendered choices, such as boys line up here and girls line up there.
- Normalize including pronouns in introductions. Use a [Pronoun Form](#) to survey students and learn how they like to be addressed.
- Provide role models. Show a wide range of achievements and emotions for all people that move beyond gender-role stereotypes. Teach [Transgender Stories and Experiences](#)
- Read aloud or provide books to your class that include gender expansiveness and break down stereotypes related to gender expression and gender identity. [Book List](#)
- Design lessons to expand student’s understanding of gender. Help students see the limitations of gender stereotyping. Ask your class to examine popular culture, advertising, or children’s toys and books for gender stereotypes.
- Build student allies. With your class, look at ways to be an ally when someone is teased or bullied for any reason. Can they try to stop it directly? Should they talk with an adult? Could they talk with the student who has been harassed?
- Be an upstander yourself. Stop hurtful comments or name-calling based on gender and other biases when you encounter it. Engage in discussion with students by using these situations as teachable moments.
- Encourage students to connect with other students based upon interests and activities that they enjoy rather than connecting with other students solely based upon gendered activities.

- Ensure safety. Be aware of whether your students feel safe both inside and outside of the classroom. In the lunchroom? Recess? P.E? Other specialist classes? In the bathroom? On the school bus? When substitute teachers are present?
- Create classroom displays that represent the diversity of gender identity and expression, and family structures. Ask students to write biographies or make hallway displays featuring people who identify as LGBTQ+ and those that have moved beyond traditional gender roles to excel in their chosen fields.
- Encourage school staff to attend workshops or trainings on supporting transgender students. Learn more about our self-paced continuing education course on [Creating Safe and Supportive Spaces for LGBTQ+ Youth](#).
- Be an advocate for change. Use your position to advocate for inclusive policies and practices. Encourage gender-inclusive shifts like preferred name and pronoun usage. Share resources on the positive impact of inclusivity.

Adapted from Gender and Children: A Place to Begin, Welcoming Schools