

ACTIVITY

Which toys are for girls and which are for boys?

Pupils explore their attitudes towards gender and play through categorising different toys.

Aims

- To explore the extent to which pupils hold stereotypical ideas about gender and how that impacts on toys and play.

Level

Early and First

What you need

- Copies of photos of a variety of toys so that each pair has a photo of a toy (*see the new few pages*)
- 2 large hoops

What to do

Ask the pupils to discuss in their pairs if their toy is for boys, for girls or for both boys and girls. They must then come and place it in the hoops (arranged as a Venn diagram) according to whether they decide that the toy is only for girls, only for boys or for both. They must explain why they put it there. For each choice ask: Does everyone agree? Why is this toy only for girls / boys? Could a boy / girl play with this toy?

Encourage the pupils to identify gender stereotypes and challenge each other's viewpoints.

This discussion could be extended by reading stories such as *The Paper Bag Princess* (Robert Munsch) and *Dangerously Ever After* (Dashka Slater).

Reflection and evaluation

What makes something a 'boys' or 'girls' toy? Who decides?

This activity has been adapted from RISC 'How do we know it's working?'
The full activity and photos can be found [here](#)

VARIETY OF TOYS



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