

Gender Detective Activities

Environment detective

Aim: To investigate the extent to which gender stereotypes appear in children's immediate environment

Suggested time: 10 minutes at the start to introduce the activity.

The activity itself can then be done over the course of a week.

Children could have a simple 'Gender Detectives Notebook' or piece of paper and note down any examples at when they see them.

Activity:

Children write down examples:

- of negative gender stereotyping they see in any images at home: e.g. in magazines, packaging for food or toiletries (cereal and snack boxes, shampoo bottles etc), packaging for their toys and games (what language, colours and images are used on the boxes of board games and Lego?)
- of positive examples of how women and men are represented in any images at home.
- of gender stereotyping they see on adverts on billboards or at bus stops, or in shop windows

Discuss with your child:

Who is represented in what roles – are certain products, packaging, adverts or posters dominated by one gender or are genders represented in different roles? Does language used suggest gender bias (e.g. 'male nurse' or 'mankind')?