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# The Gender Now Curriculum

**EXPANDING GENDER THROUGH PLAYFUL EXPLORATION**

## ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

We begin by establishing a natural/normalized framework for multiple gender expression using nature, history and multiple cultural contexts. So when we speak more specifically about gender and its expression children have a familiar terrain within which to see through cultural assumptions. At the heart of this large and supportive container are the following principles:

### 1. CHILD-CENTERED

- » Priority is given to full support of a child's individuality and self-worth
- » Children are met respectfully where they are at

### 2. USES COMMON AND ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE

- » Lived experience/relevant context
  - Use words children use and know ("boy" "girl") and open up the meaning of these familiar words
- » Not technical on purpose
  - We expect and encourage everyone to find their own words and respectfully ask others what words feel right for them
  - We need more words and want to encourage ways of thinking and communicating that will help create these new words
  - While we try to use terminology that is respectful and current, we do not want to create finite definitions, but open up possibility and curiosity

### 3. PLAY TO LEARN

- » Enjoyment and freedom allow for greater learning opportunities

This allows children to explore organically, come to their own knowing and develop their sense of self independent of outdated ways of thinking and being. We want to support our children in a conscious and thoughtful manner, taking their full potential into consideration. We believe it is the children who will ultimately teach us out and beyond the philosophies and experiences of our current day, creating new language and ways of seeing the world that we cannot currently imagine.

## THE BOOKS

### **The Gender Now Coloring Book: a learning adventure for children and adults**

More one-on-one engagement; specifically designed to be a joint exploration for parent and child, therapist and child, or other supportive adult and child to take together to learn about gender and bodies

### **The Gender Now Activity Book: School Edition**

Adapted from the original Coloring Book but more geared toward a school environment

**with Additional books in development!**

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

### **[www.reflectionpress.com/genderguide](http://www.reflectionpress.com/genderguide)**

Additional resources and downloads on our website: curriculum development worksheet, *It's Perfectly Natural* Powerpoint Presentation, handouts, lesson plans and more added as they are created.