



## Start the Conversation | GENDER Activity Guide

---

In this guide you will find a list of activities that can be used to continue the conversation and support the themes explored in *Start the Conversation: Exploring Gender*. These activities can be practiced at home, in the classroom, in childcare centers, at the park, and in other community spaces and can be modified to support a wide range of ages. Choose what activities you feel are best for you and the young people in your life!

### Continuing to Explore Our Stories :

- **Miu Lan's Sing Along**

**In our story Miu Lan's mother sings a special song to her:**

*Whatever you dream of,  
I believe you can be  
From the stars in the sky to the fish in the sea.  
You can crawl like a crab or with feathers fly high,  
And I'll always be here, I'll be near, standing by  
And you know that I'll love you till the day that I die.  
Whatever you dream of,  
I believe you can be  
For you are my child, courageous and free.*

Can you create a melody to sing these lyrics to? Maybe you can use the melody of your favorite song? Or create one of your own? Do you have any instruments that you can use to create the melody and rhythm? Try creating your song alone, with a friend or with a grown up!

### **Welcome New Baby Card: Gender Neutral Style**

At the end of the story *When Aidan Became a Brother*, Aidan's community comes to celebrate the arrival of the new baby at a party. Let's celebrate with Aidan and his family by making a card for the baby to be. How can your card celebrate the new baby without emphasizing gender? Create a card that welcomes this baby to the family!



## Start the Conversation | GENDER Activity Guide

### Classroom Activities and Practices for Educators:

- **Draw Your GenderBread Person**

Help your students begin to identify the differences between gender expression, gender identity, anatomical sex, and attraction (physical & romantic). Watch this video for a lesson example. Print out a genderbread chart for each student and encourage them to fill out the chart with their own salient identities. You can use different colors, language, or images to personalize the genderbread person and make it your own.

With your students' permission, display their genderbread people in the classroom to celebrate the identities that makeup your community. Tip: have a few genderbread charts printed and available to students all year long so that they can update them as elements of their identities change and grow!

*Depending on the age group you are working with, you can decide whether or not to include attraction.*

- **Pronouns in the Classroom!**

Many educators are familiar with different name games and hello songs that can be used to get to know their students and for students to get to know each other. **When you lead name/welcome activities, are you giving space for students to share their pronouns?** For this activity, see how you can incorporate pronouns into your classroom name/welcome activities. Do students have name tags on their desks? Can you add a spot for pronouns? Is there room in your name song? Or welcome game?

*You can also use this [FREE Pronoun Form resource](#) from GLSEN to share with your students at the beginning of each school year!*

*A note from GLSEN: There is an ongoing debate about whether teachers should be required to disclose a student's gender identity to that student's parents, if asked.*

*Current laws on this issue vary by state, and this article has state-by-state guidance regarding student records and privacy in relation to gender identity. Check with your school administration to see what protections you have in regards to this issue.*

*Learn more about our Model Local Education Agency Policy on Trans and Nonbinary Students, by visiting:*

*[glsen.org/activity/model-local-education-agency-policy-on-transgender-nonbinary-students](https://glsen.org/activity/model-local-education-agency-policy-on-transgender-nonbinary-students)*



## Start the Conversation | GENDER Activity Guide

### Queer Kid Stuff Activities :

- **Queer Kid Stuff Sing-A-Longs!**

Sing-a-long to original songs with Lindz and their best friend Teddy. These songs will teach young people about Pride, privilege and gender and promote queer joy! Visit Queer Kid Stuff's [Sing-A-Long playlist](#) on Youtube!

### Activities from the Video:

- **Create a Character Scavenger Hunt!**

**You have pronouns but characters ALSO have pronouns!** A CHARACTER is a person in a play or story. Actors are people who get to play characters, they get to pretend to be someone different than themselves!

Let's create a character of our very own and go on a scavenger hunt to create a costume for our characters. Costumes are what characters wear on stage. Here is what you will need...

*Find something...*

- *You can put on your head*
- *Blue*
- *Pink*
- *Sparkly*
- *Stripey*
- *The Final Touch! (anything you'd like)*

Now it is time to create our character! Let's start with a name: What might this character's name be? What might they like to do? Where do they like to go? What pronouns do they use? Amazing! Now try introducing your character to someone new!

- **Gender Spectrum Activity by Queer Kid Stuff**

A spectrum is a range of many options. One example is the color *spectrum*, or all the colors between black and white. Another example is the gender *spectrum*, or all the genders between, around, or outside of boy and girl. Now it's your turn to make your own super spectrum!

*Materials:* paper, crayons, optional: old magazines or photographs, glue stick, scissors



## Start the Conversation | GENDER Activity Guide

**Start** by drawing a stripe of black and white on either side of the paper. Some people think that there are only two gender options (boy and girl) like there are only two colors on our paper (black and white). We know there's lots of different genders and gender expressions!

**Draw** the whole color spectrum between black and white, make sure to include all your favorite colors! Besides boy and girl, what other gender words do you know or remember? What are your gender words today?

**Share** your artwork with a friend or family member!

*Optional:* Cut colorful pictures from an old magazine. Glue the pictures on your spectrum, matching the color of your pictures to the color of your spectrum. If available, add photographs of yourself to your spectrum!

- **Acting as Aidan**

After reading *When Aidan Became a Brother* by Kyle Lukoff, think about how you might respond to the woman in the store? Or the man with the paint.

Imagine you're Aidan:

- How do you imagine Aidan felt in that moment? (Show me in your body).
- What do you (Aidan) want this woman/man to know?
- What's important to Aidan right now? Why?
- If you were Aidan how would you respond? Let's try that out. Imagine you are talking to the woman in the store or the man at the paint shop...what would you say?

*Option: If you are a grown-up participating, you can also try on the character of Aidan's mom or dad...what might they be feeling? What might they say?*