



Explaining Gender Neutral Bathrooms

PINK Approach to Gender Inclusion

Helping students understand gender related topics and answering questions can appear to be a daunting task for educators. You can use Garden State Equality's "PINK Approach to Gender Inclusion" in order to keep the teacher-student dialogue simple and easy for everyone to understand.

Practice answering questions related to gender identity and gender expression.

Intervene if you hear hurtful comments or teasing based on gender.

Never ignore gender related questions or respond with personal bias.

Keep it simple by practicing easy to remember responses.

Note: Never discuss an individual student with their peers or "out" a student in order to explain gender related topics.

Explaining Gender Neutral Bathrooms Examples of Gender Neutral Spaces

- *Bathrooms at Home:* Does your house have a girls bathroom and a boys bathroom? I bet not, so this means that your house has gender neutral bathrooms.
- *Bathrooms on an airplane:* Have you ever been on an airplane? Did you know that airplane bathrooms are gender neutral.
- *Bathrooms in Restaurants:* Have you ever gone to a restaurant or coffee shop with your family and there was only one bathroom? That means that bathroom is gender neutral.

Lesson Planning Around Gender Neutral Spaces

- Ask your students to pay attention to gender neutral bathrooms or spaces in their community. Have them share what they see.
- Help students think about games, toys, sports or activities that are for everyone. This activity should get them thinking about how games, toys, sports and activities are not based on gender.
- Encourage students to think about ways that they can be gender neutral and gender inclusive when at home and in school.



Explaining Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Addressing Young Learners Questions

Student's Question: "What does gender neutral or all gender mean anyway?"

Your Answer: Having a gender neutral or all gender bathroom means that this bathroom is for everyone. The sign will look like this (show a photo of your school's all gender bathroom sign) so that students know what to look for.

Student's Question: "Why do we need an all gender bathroom? We have boys and girls bathrooms already."

Your Answer: We need an all gender bathroom because not everyone is comfortable using the girls or the boys bathroom. This bathroom is for everyone.

Student's Question: "Last year, Jason used the boys bathroom, but this year Jason uses the girls bathroom and asked us to call him Crystal. Did he turn into a girl?"

Your Answer: There are some kids that might look like a boy or a girl on the outside but that's not the way they feel on the inside. We all know that we're the best judge of our own feelings. We also know it's very important to be kind and supportive. So when a classmate tells us their chosen name and pronouns we use that name and pronouns. Students are allowed to use the restroom that is most comfortable for them.

Student Say: "Michael plays with dolls. He acts like a girl!"

Your Answer: Yes, some boys like to play with dolls and some boys like to play with dinosaurs. Some boys like to play sports and other like to draw. Being a girl or a boy should not stop you from doing what you like. All the toys in class are made for all children to play with. That means that you can play with any toy you want. Just like our toys, our new bathroom is for everyone to use.

If you are unsure about what to say, contact your Safe Schools Coordinator.