

# Literacy, language and gender

## Top tips to tackle gender stereotyping through literacy and language in the classroom

**Challenge gender stereotypes** when they arise and turn them into an opportunity for discussion and learning.

**Use inclusive language** and challenge phrases or descriptions such as 'throw like a girl', 'ladylike', 'boys will be boys', and 'girly'.

Avoid steering children towards certain books. **Let them make decisions** about their interests freely and encourage girls and boys to share stories.

Organise library shelves and book corners by theme such as adventure, comedy, diaries or science fiction and **avoid 'boys' or 'girls' labels**.

Choose books, poetry and non-fiction texts written by a **diverse range of writers**.

Offer a **wide variety of books** with a diverse range of characters.

Ensure that author visits are **representative of the local community** and the wider world.

**Representation matters**, so ensure pictures and images on display depict a wide range of people, reflecting the school community and the wider world.

Raise the aspirations of children by regularly providing a **range of role models** via books, the media, and people from the local community.

**Use creative writing** to explore, discuss and challenge gender stereotypes.

Create a **culture of acceptance**, ensuring that the school is a safe place for children to learn, have their voices heard and feel supported in their choices.

Allow children to **try out roles** that interest them in school plays and performances.

National  
Literacy  
Trust



 @Literacy\_Trust  
literacytrust.org.uk

 @lettoysbetoys  
lettoysbetoys.org.uk

