

# Gender Respect Project

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For further information see:  
<http://www.decsy.org.uk>  
OR  
<http://genderrespect2013.wordpress.com>

## Gender and Sport: Philosophy for Children

*Age group: KS2 (ages 7-11)*

*Format: Series of lessons: Lesson One*

*Main curriculum / subject area: Philosophy, English*

*Other curriculum links: Geography, PSHE, PE*

### Objectives:

#### **General Objectives:**

- To give children the opportunity to explore concepts of fairness, equality, gender and sport
- To challenge children's stereotypes in relation to sport and gender
- To encourage children to question and respond to the views of others

#### **Objectives from the new National Curriculum 2014 (English):**

- To compose and rehearse sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures

#### **Objectives from Chris Quigley Essentials 2014 (Communication):**

- To listen carefully and understand
- To develop a wide and interesting vocabulary
- To speak with clarity
- To hold conversations and debates

### Teaching activities:

**Suggested warm up:** Create an imaginary line in the classroom, with one end as 'male', one as 'female'. Name a sport and children have to go with their instinct as to where they would stand on the line: do they think of the sport as a male sport, a female sport, equally for both, or somewhere else in between?

**Stimuli:** Clip from *Billy Elliot* and *Bend it like Beckham*, images of females and males doing a variety of sports, newspaper articles: female boxing allowed in the Olympics in 2012 for the first time, differences between men's and women's gymnastics, women in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to play sport.

**Generate questions:** Children are encouraged to write their thoughts down as they consider the different stimuli. They generate a philosophical question that they would like to discuss relating to the stimuli.

**Choose question:** Children get into groups of about 6, bringing their ideas and question. As a group they choose one question. These questions are written on the board. Children choose one question they would like to discuss. All children close their eyes and the teacher reads out the questions. Children put their hands up for the one they would like to discuss.

Children are reminded of the rules of philosophy circles e.g. confidentiality, putting their hand out in front of them if they would like to contribute, only one person talking at a time and that is the person with the ball/object.

**Initial Thoughts:** Ask children to write down their initial thoughts in their think books.

**Building:** Choose someone to start the discussion then encourage children to listen carefully and critically and respond to one another with sentence openers such as: I agree/disagree with...In my opinion....Building on what ....has said.

**Last words:** Go around the circle, giving everyone the opportunity to give their final thoughts using the sentence opener 'I wonder if...'

### ***Examples of questions the children may come up with:***

Why can't there be some sports for men, some for women and some for both?

Why aren't women seen on TV sports programmes as much as men?

Why do you barely ever hear about women sports people?

Why do men call women's football girls' football?

Why do people think that men are better and stronger than women?

Why should different genders affect how we play sport?

Why can't women's sport be on TV more often?

Why do people think boys can't do girl things and girls can't do boy things?

How would you feel if someone said you couldn't do sport anymore?



## **Learning outcomes and assessment:**

- Children are able to discuss with clarity issues of gender and sport
  - Children listen carefully and respond to one another
  - Children are able to consider and challenge gender stereotypes in relation to sport
- Assessment could take place in the form of making notes of what each child has contributed

## **Resources**

Clip from *Billy Elliot* and *Bend it like Beckham*, images of women and men doing a variety of sports, newspaper articles: female boxing allowed in the Olympics in 2012 for the first time, differences between men's and women's gymnastics, women in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to play sport.