GENDER STEREOTYPES

What are they?

Where do they come from?

Why do they matter?

How can we re-define them?

RESPECT

THE LINE

What are stereotypes?

Stereotypes are ideas we have about people where we judge them without even knowing them. We often judge people based on what they look like and how they are dressed instead of taking the time to find out who they really are.

People often judge others just because they are a male or a female before they even get to know them!

For example, stereotypes tell us...

BOYS ARE AGGRESSIVE AND NOT GENTLE AND CARING

YOU SEE THE OLDER BOYS DRINKING PROTEIN SHAKES SO THEY CAN GET BUFF

GIRLS ARE MORE SENSITIVE AND WORRY ABOUT HOW THEY LOOK

BOYS ARE COMPETITIVE AND LIKE TO WIN

GIRLS CRY EASILY, WEAR MAKE-UP AND ARE WEAK

So stereotypes make assumptions about...

- How girls and boys are supposed to look – like boys having short hair or being muscly
- What you can do – like women take care of the house, but men go out to work
- How you should act – boys are aggressive while girls are gentle and sensitive.

Where can you find gender stereotypes?

These stereotypes about what men and women are supposed to be like are in lots of places, like:

What we watch

- TV shows
- Ads on TV
- Movies

What we read

- Books
- Magazines

The people we spend time with
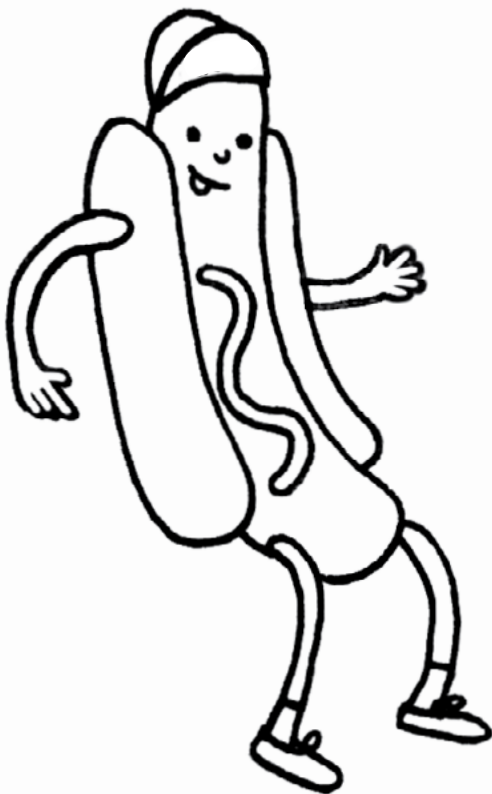
- Parents
- Teachers
- Our friends

And our family and community

- School rules
- Community
- Religion
- Family
- Culture

STEREOTYPES ABOUT
HOW BOYS AND GIRLS ARE "MEANT" TO
BE COME FROM LOTS
OF DIFFERENT PLACES.
BUT SO WHAT? AREN'T THEY
JUST IDEAS?

THEY DON'T FEEL LIKE
"JUST IDEAS" TO ME. STEREOTYPES
JUDGE PEOPLE AND PUT THEM
INTO CATEGORIES.

THE
LINE

Why do gender stereotypes matter?

Stereotypes aren't very accurate. Is it really true that all men
are meant to have short hair? Or that only men have muscles?
Or that women have to do the cooking at home?

SOME GIRLS HAVE SHORT HAIR!

THE ONLY REASON I HAVE SHORT HAIR IS BECAUSE THAT'S THE SCHOOL RULES

MY BROTHER HAS LONG HAIR SO I THINK BOYS CAN HAVE LONG HAIR

UMM... NO, AT MY HOUSE DAD DOES THE COOKING

MY MUM WORKS UNTIL LATE SO DAD PICKS US UP FROM SCHOOL AND DOES THE DINNER

WELL THAT'S NOT TRUE, BECAUSE I HAVE LONG HAIR!

I SPEND HALF THE WEEK WITH DAD AND HALF THE WEEK WITH MUM – DAD COOKS WHEN I COME OVER. HE'S A WAY BETTER COOK

HMM. SO IT LOOKS LIKE STEREOTYPES ABOUT MALES AND FEMALES AREN'T ALWAYS TRUE! THEY'RE JUST ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE MEANT TO BE LIKE, BUT NOT WHO WE REALLY ARE.

THE LINE

Putting people into categories can send the message that there are ways males and females "should" behave.

BOY

The whole "men are supposed to be strong or aggressive" is really hard. Both girls and boys can be sensitive – I'm a boy and I'm sensitive and caring about other people. Just because I am a boy doesn't mean that I should be those things.

I feel like I have to hide my feelings and pretend to be something I'm not, or be tough in how I treat other people.

GIRL

One time, on a casuals day, my friend said that what I was wearing was swag. This year 8 boy said "you can't call girls swag! You're supposed to say 'cute'". Umm, excuse me? Why can't girls be swag? I was feeling pretty cool – not cute!!

WE CAN CHALLENGE STEREOTYPES...
BECAUSE MANY TIMES THEY ARE NOT TRUE AND
CAN MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE SOMEONE IS
PUTTING RULES AROUND WHO YOU CAN BE AND
WHAT YOU CAN DO! IT IS LIKE SOMEONE
IS TRYING TO PUT YOU IN A CATEGORY OR A BOX.
REAL PEOPLE ARE MORE COMPLEX
AND INTERESTING THAN STEREOTYPES.

YOU CAN'T PUT ME IN A BOX!

THE LINE

More than a stereotype

It can be hard if we're walking around feeling boxed in by other people's expectations and judgements about how males and females are supposed to act.

In reality... People are much more interesting than a stereotype. People can be so many different things...

SWEET

I THINK ALL GIRLS ARE AMAZING. I LOVE TO PLAY DRUMS.

I DIDN'T THINK BOYS WERE ANNOYED ABOUT STEREOTYPES LIKE BEING TOUGH. BUT THEY ARE.

EVERYONE CAN BE GENTLE, CARING AND COMPETITIVE.

SOCCER IS MY FAVOURITE SPORT TO PLAY. I THINK BEING A GIRL MEANS BEING YOURSELF.

I WOULD DESCRIBE MY GENDER AS ARTISTIC. MY FRIENDS THINK I'M FUNNY.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

I AM...

BEING A BOY MEANS CARING FOR MY LITTLE BROTHER.

THE LINE

It can be a little scary to talk to other people about stereotypes and how they make you feel. You might worry that people will think differently about you. But finding ways to step outside those 'boxes' of stereotypes is totally worth it.

YOU FIND OUT THAT BOYS AND GIRLS HAVE QUITE A LOT IN COMMON. APPEARANCE DOESN'T USUALLY DESCRIBE A PERSON.
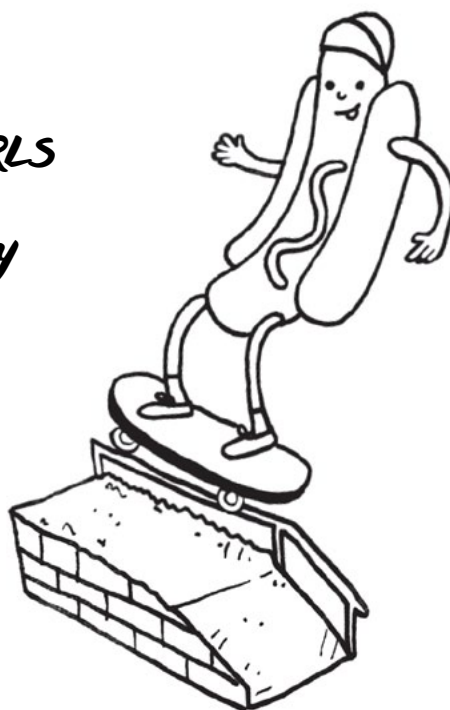
THINKING TWICE ABOUT IF PEOPLE ARE STEREOTYPING ME HELPS ME TO CHOOSE TO DO THINGS BASED ON WHAT I THINK IS IMPORTANT, NOT ON WHAT THEY EXPECT ME TO DO.

THE LINE