



INSTITUTE FOR
HUMANE EDUCATION

BOYS LIKE, GIRLS LIKE, KIDS LIKE

by Ashley Miller

PURPOSE

This activity helps younger children think critically about gender roles, gender bias, and how diverse and alike we can be.

GRADES

Pre-K-2

TIME

30 + minutes

MATERIALS

- large sheets of paper (or poster board) & markers; Post-It notes; scissors; glue or tape
- examples of males/females in diverse roles/activities

SUBJECT AREAS

Language Arts & History/Social Studies

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Forthcoming

PREPARATION

1. Create a large Venn diagram on paper or poster board, one circle with “Boys Like” and one circle with “Girls Like”; make sure the overlapping piece of the circle is relatively large.
2. Create another large paper (or poster board) labeled "Kids Like."
3. You may wish to have examples of males/females in diverse roles/activities (see below).



PROCEDURE

1. Tell students you are all going to make a list of different things boys and girls like to do.
2. Start by asking what boys like to do; write their responses on large Post-its.
3. Then ask students to brainstorm some things that girls like to do; write their responses on large Post-its as well. (If students say at any point “But a boy/girl can like that too.” put it in the middle of the overlapping circles.)
4. Go through each of the sticky notes and ask if boys/girls can also like that too. Be prepared for students to say something is only for boys/girls (especially for things like “wears dresses, etc.”). Remind them that there could be some people out there that might like the thing in question. Using yourself and/or a “friend” as an example seems to work great. You may also wish to gather examples from the media ahead of time to help

RELATED RESOURCES

Blog Posts

12 Children's Picture Books That Challenge Traditional Gender Roles

<http://bit.ly/150KQdG>

illustrate this kind of diversity.

5. Cut out the middle part of the Venn Diagram (to which you have hopefully now moved all of the Post-its) and glue/tape it on a new poster that says “KIDS LIKE.”
6. Invite students to add to this poster throughout the day, or throughout the year.

ALTERNATIVES

1. If you are concerned about what examples students will give, you can create your own "stereotyped" examples beforehand and ask students “Who likes to...?” (e.g. Who likes to play baseball? Who likes to play with dolls?)
2. Have students pair share before sharing with the entire group.
3. If students cannot yet write, have them draw pictures to illustrate the examples.