

Children's books and stories are a great way to promote gender equality!

Tips for parents & carers: Stories

Promoting gender equality in the early years



Find a gender equality booklist

We all love a good story, the key is to **have a variety**. Offer books based on interest or skills. **Ask your local library, childcare or kinder if they have a gender equality booklist**. There are plenty of enjoyable stories that embrace diversity and individuality beyond gender.

Be more aware of rigid gender stereotypes. Question their existence. Encourage conversations about stereotyping.



Bring attention to the idea of stereotyping early on (Stereotyping is making generalisations about the characteristics of an entire group based on one social trait like gender, race, religion).

Look for opportunities to have conversations with children about gender stereotypes. **Use books, movies, media to stimulate discussion**. A child may say "girls can't do that!" You can say – why not? All kids can do everything!

Parents and carers have a powerful role in shaping understandings of gender norms, power and respect.

Resources:

Beyond Sparkles & Superheroes [Booklist](#) with [activities for storytime](#)

[Check out local library storytimes](#)

[Level Playground Website - Read](#)

Our Watch [Everyday Q&A](#) for talking about gender stereotypes in everyday

[Tipsheet](#): Talking to kids about gender stereotypes in the media

Access Health & Community's [Free To Be Me Book Selection Checklist](#): Things to look out for when selecting books