

## Gender-Inclusive Biology Instruction for Elementary School Educators

The following resources are specific to supporting elementary school educators to be more inclusive and accurate in their teaching of gender, sex, and sexuality.

- Read [Early Childhood Gender 101 and Gender](#) for an overview of how to talk about gender with even very young children.
- Read the [Principles of Gender-Inclusive Puberty and Health Education](#) for guidelines on how to address and teach these topics.
- Read the [School Action Toolkit](#) with your peers for ideas from Australia about how your school might implement a plan to better teach gender, sex and sexuality.
- By the age of 1, children begin to categorize individuals by gender and by one and a half years old they begin to understand their own gender identity, which they establish more firmly at around age 2-3. By 2 years old they begin to use culturally defined gender labels and recognize gender stereotypes.
- Help kids see the way that gender and sexual diversity is natural and reflected in the world around them. Learn more about naturally-occurring diversity in gender and relationships ([adaptations like spotted red hyenas, bull frogs, clown fish](#)), inheritance and multi-adult families ([diverse families toolkit](#), which requires a signup to download, and [lesson plans to embrace all families](#)), and how bodies develop.
- Other lesson recommendations:
  - [Welcoming Schools Chimera Butterflies: Nonbinary Animals](#)
  - [Welcoming Schools And Tango Makes Three: Looking at Family and Story Structure](#)
  - [Elementary lesson plans about gender, sex, and sexuality \(not just for science\)](#)
- Book recommendations:
  - [And Tango Makes Three by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardon](#)
  - [It's A Wild World by S. Bear Bergman](#)
  - [Gender Now Activity Book: School Edition by Maya Christina Gonzalez](#)
- Reach out to [Gender Inclusive Classrooms](#) for K-5 specific guidance

Visit [this document for recommendations for middle and high school educators](#) and [stemteachingtools.org/brief/76](https://stemteachingtools.org/brief/76) for the associated STEM Teaching Tool practice brief.