

Tween perspectives on Gender, Sexualities and Respectful Relationships

Research partnerships with:

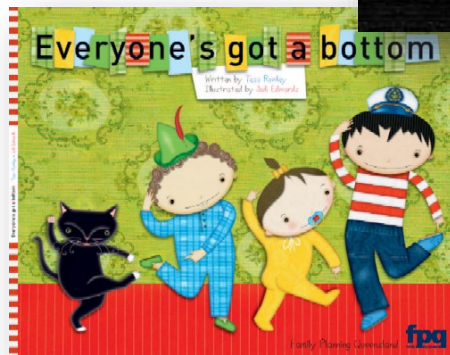
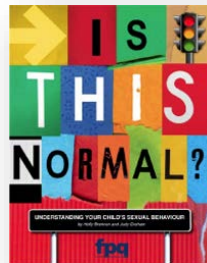


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True



- Reproductive & Sexual Health Clinics
- Professional development
- Sexual Assault Services
- Community Education
- Advice and information

Exercise



Write down :

1. Your **name**
2. One word you would use to describe your **gender**
3. One word that **someone else might use to describe you**

Place the star on your **favourite colour** in the rainbow



Project Partnership



Sexualisation of Children Project : 9-11 year old student perspectives on:

- Gender
- Stereotypes
- Sexualisation
- Relationships

Please note research data has not yet been formally published.



Australian Government

**Australian Institute of
Family Studies**



Methodology



Participatory action research alongside participatory learning activities

- Three states, including two regional areas
- 11 classes, 216 students aged 9-11
- Independent schools

Engagement process:

- Briefings with school staff,
- letters to parents/carers,
- 1.5 to 2 hour focus groups with students,
- informal interviews with teachers and school leadership, and
- follow up discussions with school leadership.

Barriers to engagement were predominantly related to school leadership resistance to engaging with concepts of gender equity.

Gender & Masculinities



Age appropriate approaches to unpacking concepts such as hegemonic masculinities, power and heteronormativity.



Connell & Messerschmidt 2005, Connell 2011, Cornwall et al. 2008

Bodies, Sexualities & Safety



Age appropriate approaches to unpacking concepts of intersectionality provided opportunities to explore identity, stereotypes and to celebrate diversity.

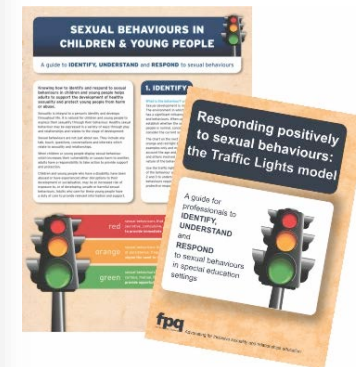


Crenshaw 1989 & 1991

Continuums of Violence



Age appropriate approaches to discussing perceptions of violence and abuse, within contexts of a continuum. Considering violence within a continuum improves our ability to support victim-survivors to move through vulnerabilities.

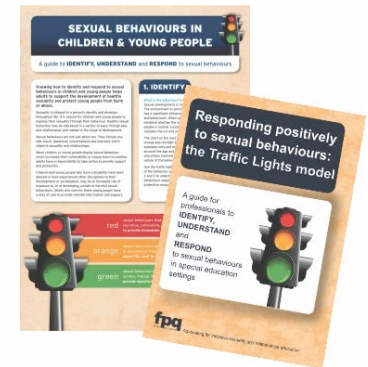


Kelly 1988

Decision Making in Relationships



Exploring children as actors making decisions within their own relationships. Age appropriate approaches to defining concepts of consent and healthy relationships.



Brennan & Graham 2012, Moser & Clark 2001

Recommendations



We need to:

- Recognise that ‘tweens’ in primary school are in an ideal position for respectful relationships education as a violence prevention measure - prior to puberty, transition to high school and broader societal conditioning
- Avoid making assumptions about tween perspectives of gender, sexualities, and sexualisation
- Address misconceptions within schools about respectful relationships, gender equity and violence prevention

Respectful Relationships --- Education in Schools

Cara Gleeson, Sarah Kearney,
Loksee Leung and Joanna Brisbane



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