

BEYOND THE BINARY



FUN STUFF!

██████████ E TALK
ABOUT GENDER OPEN
PARENTING

WHY WRITE THIS ZINE?

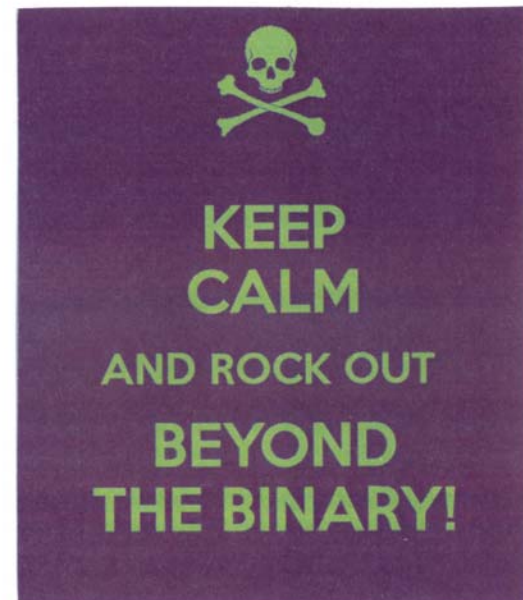
You mean other than because we are totally

AWESOME?



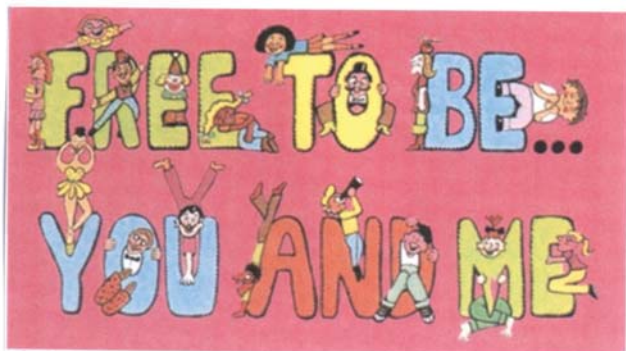
We wrote this zine because we are parenting our child in a "gender open" way (more on this later). AND because this is a new way of parenting there isn't a lot of info out there, and you might have some questions...

WE decided that this zine is the easiest way to share our parenting style with YOU!



WHY are we raising our kid in a GENDER OPEN way?

Raising our kid GENDER OPEN stems from our belief in CHILD-CENTERED parenting — that is, allowing our child to be exactly who they are, and not who we THINK they should be!



For us, this is simply a matter of RESPECTING their UNIQUE INDIVIDUALITY

Women Are Women



Regardless of sex

And Men are Men



In the same respects

you can be both



or a mix of the two

Or you can be neither



If that's what suits you

But people are people



Whatever their parts

Because what really matters



Is inside of our hearts



What does it mean to raise
a child in a gender open way?



For us, gender open* does not
mean gender neutral— there
is a whole universe of gender
and sex expressions out there
and we affirm our child's
right to be whatever combin-
ation of these expressions work
for them (regardless of how
society labels their anatomy).



*Gender open parenting is
sometimes referred to as
gender affirming parenting.



We want our child to
have access to



EVERY



POSSIBILITY

right from the start!



R + A's...

GENDER OPEN PARENTING CHECKLIST



- Using they/them/their instead of gendered pronouns like he or she

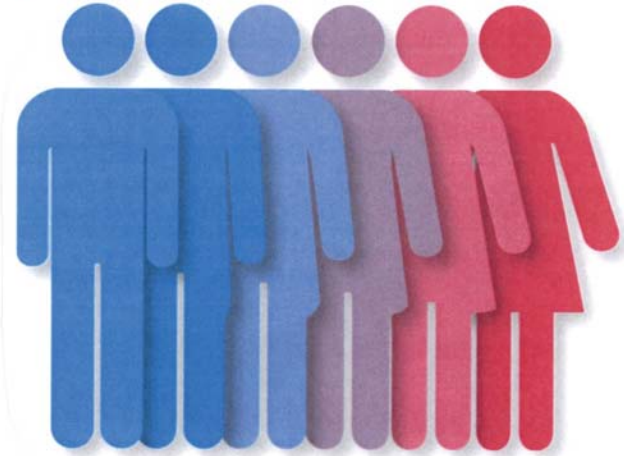


Did you know...

"They" is a grammatically correct gender-neutral pronoun. It has been used as a gender-neutral pronoun by Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, and the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

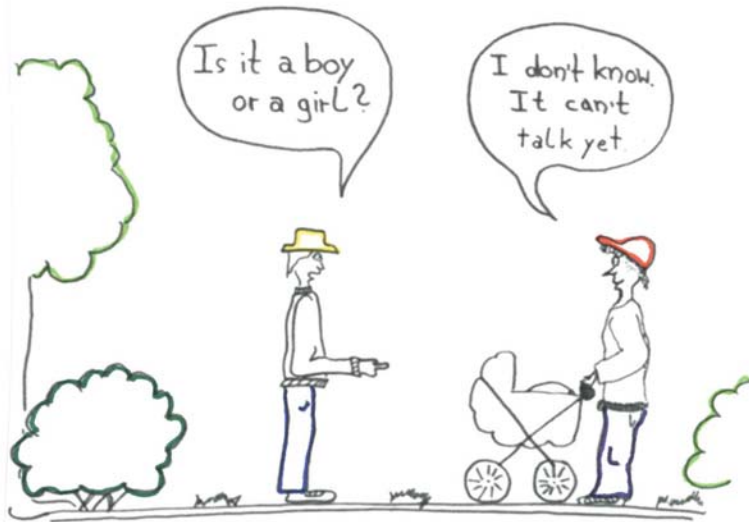
Get the facts at transstudent.org/facts

- Allowing for a full range of gender and sex self-expressions



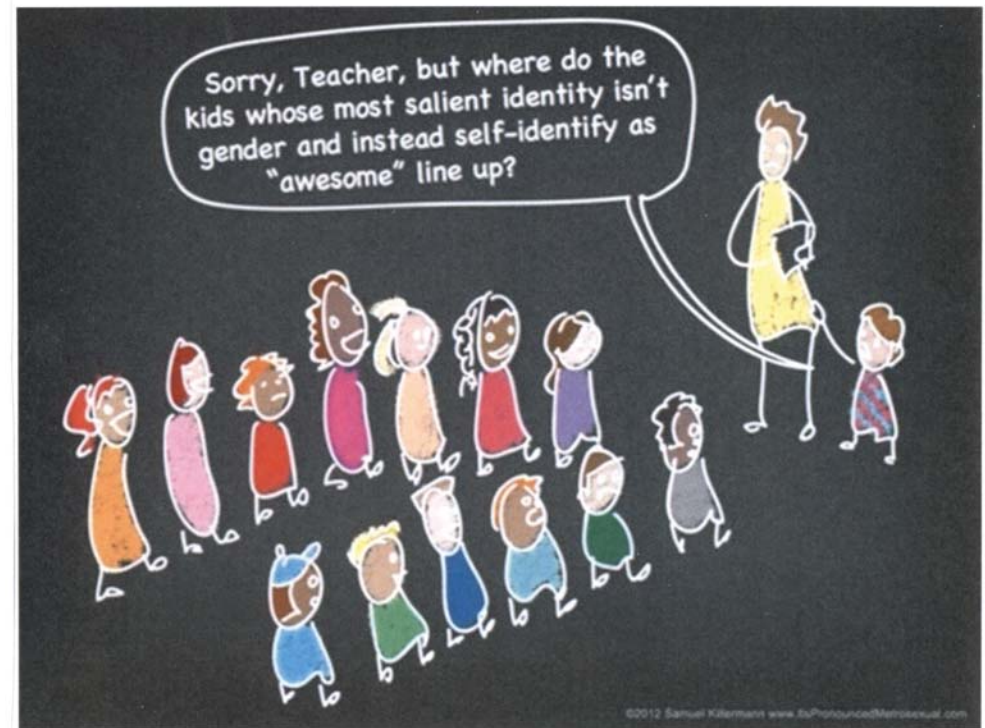
- Giving our child a variety of clothes, toys, activities, stories, make beliefs, costumes, etc.
- Not making assumptions based on body parts and not pre-assigning their sex or gender

- Recognizing that we don't know what our child's sex or gender is until they tell us

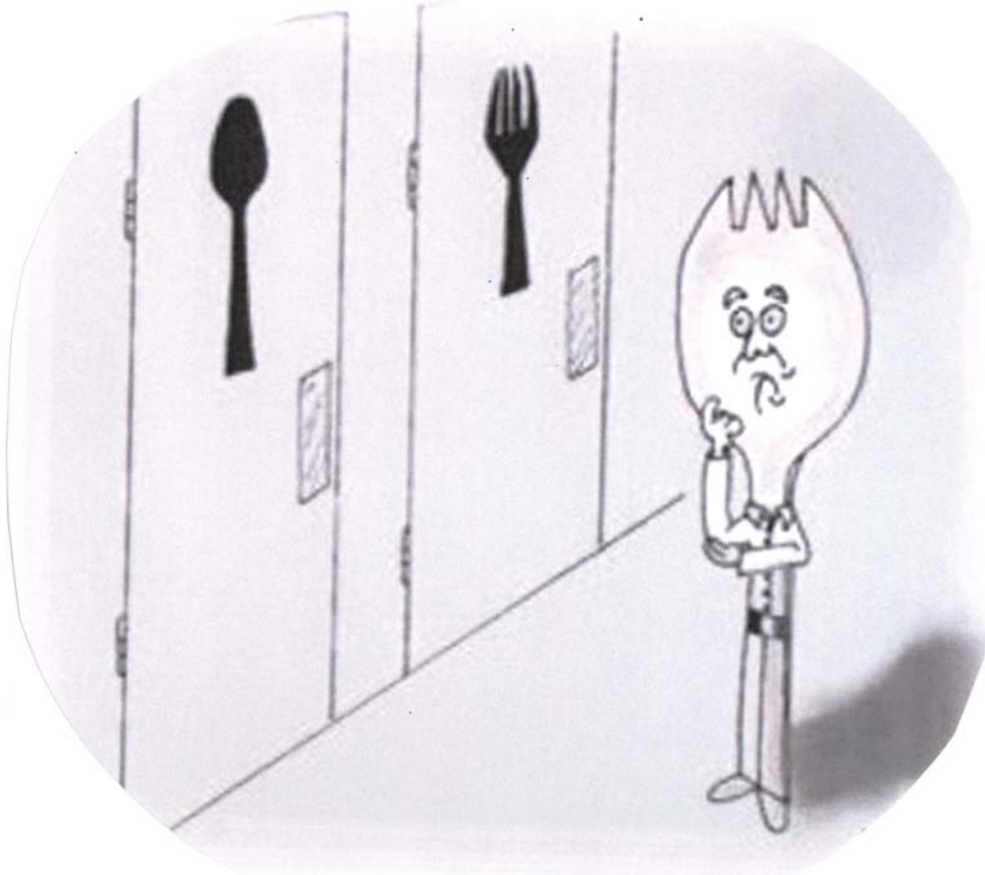


- Knowing that sex and gender expressions may change over time

- Listening to what our child says about who they are, including their gender and sex



F A Q 



FAREWELL



GENDER

BINARY

YOU WERE TOO SMALL
FOR THIS WORLD

OR

What does this mean
for

[insert your name here]

But, isn't your child really a boy or a girl?



Are you having a
Boy or Girl?
99% Accurate
Gender Test!

We won't know until they tell us! As humans, we have boiled down a huge range of possibilities into two tiny boxes ↴



Body parts are given meaning by society as a whole – it doesn't mean that everyone experiences those parts in the same way (or even have the parts you think they have).

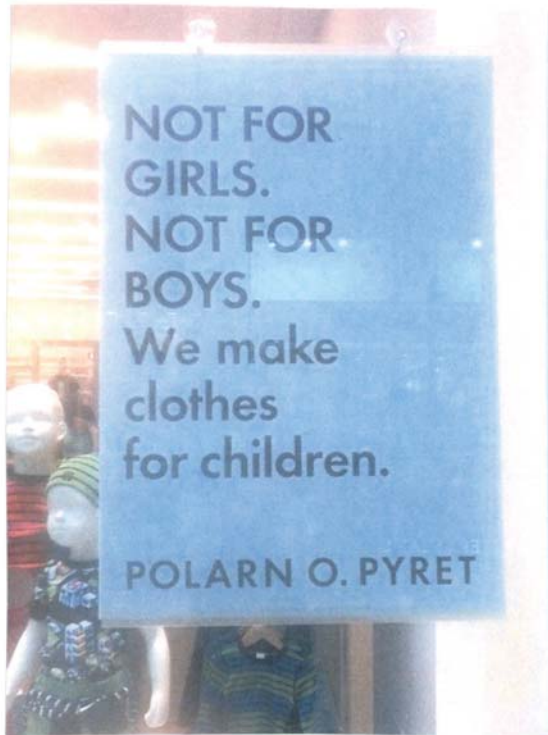


Instead of trying to 'figure out' their sex + gender, why not be open to the unique identity and expression they have?

What if I want to buy them a

PRESENT?

What if it ONLY comes in
PINK or BLUE?



We are open to our child receiving all kinds of gifts (pink, blue, purple, sparkly, plaid - you get the idea!). Don't forget buying gifts isn't the only way to show love - you might want to try:

- setting up skype dates
- giving them an experience
- spending time with them
- writing them a letter
- taking an interest in their interests



The SKY is the
LIMIT!

What

WORDS


can

I

use

?



It's sometimes hard to come up with gender open words! Check out the next page for some words you can use instead of "boy" or "girl" 

honey

kid

Their name

Smartie pants

little one

infant

baby

gorgeous

child

sweetie

tot

cutie

little genius

Some good words to describe relationships include:

SibKid (instead of niece/nephew)
grandchild (instead of granddaughter/grandson)
Child, baby, kid or tot (instead of son/daughter)

What words can you think of?

Is this a...

SOCIAL EXPERIMENT?



Absolutely

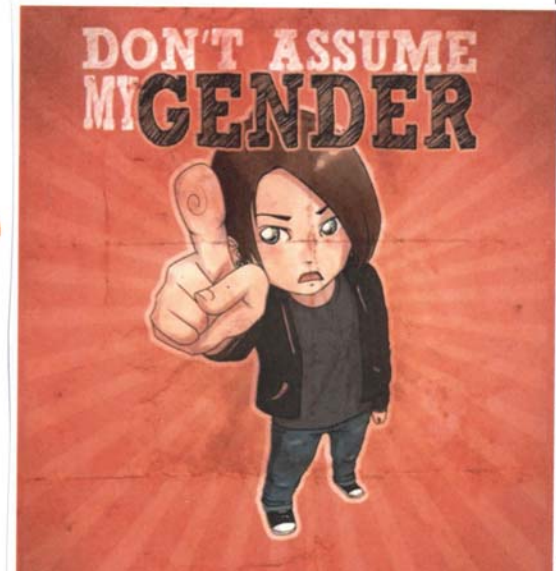
NOT!

It is not an experiment to parent in a way consistent with our values and community norms.

Our child will tell us who they are when they can, and it is our job as parents to not only accept them, but to fiercely support them in expressing themselves.

Many people throughout their life will tell them who they should be, doesn't it make sense for them to have people that accept them for who they

ARE?



Are you harming your child?

Actually, we believe that letting our child be exactly who they are and not making assumptions about their gender or sex will do the opposite - allow them to grow up knowing that their expressions will be respected and honoured by their parents.



We've seen many people be harmed and limited by a narrow, binary sex and gender system and we really want freedom and limitless possibilities for our child.



How can I show

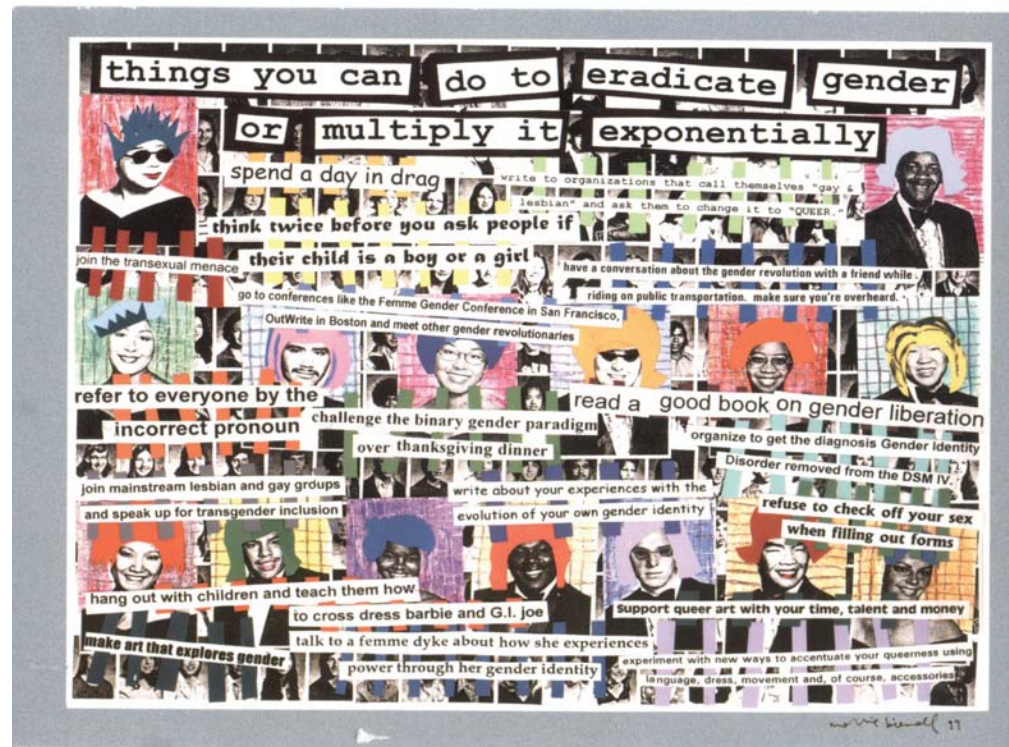
SUPPORT

for what you're doing?

Thanks for asking! You can show your support by respecting our gender open parenting style, using they/them/their as a pronoun for our child until they indicate otherwise, reading or learning more about gender open parenting, and by talking with your friends/family/colleagues about the benefits of gender open parenting.



You can also answer questions such as 'But is their child really a boy or a girl?' by using some of the content that's in this zine, or simply by saying, "we don't know, they can't talk yet."



What if I don't agree with you?

We don't expect **EVERYONE** to agree with our parenting, **BUT** we **DO** expect those in our lives and our child's life to **RESPECT** it (and us!).



To be clear, while there may be times we are **OPEN** to conversation on this topic, we are **NOT** looking to **DEBATE** it.

Arguments **AGAINST** gender open parenting are everywhere - in the news, on tv, online - we need to **PROTECT** our own well-being by insisting dissenting opinions be kept **TO YOURSELF!**

oppressive

thoughts
attitudes
and
behaviors



are LEARNED.

**BE WHO
YOU ARE!**

Rest ASSURED, we have thoughtfully considered gender open parenting from a VARIETY of perspectives.

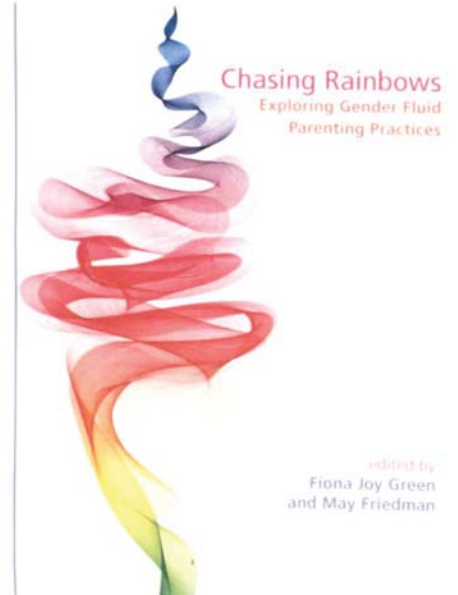
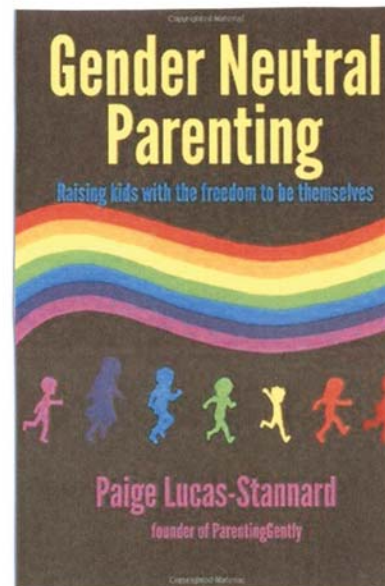


"Since we can't agree to disagree, how about we disagree on agreeing."



What if I have questions or want more info?

That's GREAT! Asking questions is AWESOME, and we welcome questions when we have time/energy to respond (timing is everything!). Given the huge life changes of preparing for and taking care of a BABY, we might be too TIRED to answer questions. But **You** can do your own research! Here are two GREAT resources to get you started!





A final note...

Now that you've slogged through the hard stuff, we just want to say:

THANK YOU!! We're so lucky to have such a supportive Community in which to raise our little one. We are EXCITED that you are a part of it! ❤️



Gender is...



a spectrum



a range of expression



how you relate to yourself

HELLO
my name is

Me!

a personal identity

Gender is not..



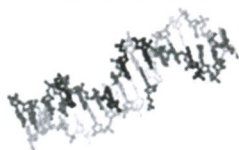
just male or female



defined by body parts



sexual orientation



determined by chromosomes