

## THE GENDER CLOTHESLINE

**Grade level:** 3-4 elementary  
**Estimated time:** 20 minutes  
**Theme:** Gender stereotypes



### Goal

Demystify gender stereotypes and reinforce the importance of gender equality.

### Material

- Long piece of string
- Clothespins
- Printed cards (some can be doubled up)

### Procedure

1. Hang the string through the classroom, making it accessible to the students. Place the large card «Feminine» on one side, the card “Masculine” on the other side and the card “Neutral” in the middle.
2. Distribute clothespins and 2-3 cards with elements on them for each student to classify.
3. Explain the activity:
  - All the students must place their cards using the clothespins near the section they feel the activity or personality trait refers to: feminine, masculine or neutral.
  - The string is a continuum, therefore you can place the card where you feel it is appropriate (in the centre, on one of the sides, slightly more feminine than masculine, etc.)
4. Once all the cards have been placed, the teacher can read out the selection or ask the students to read it out.

### Discussion points

- Are certain activities just for boys or just for girls? If so, which ones? Why?
- What determines our preferences? (sex, gender, personality, instruction)
- What do we call a general idea one can have about a group of people? (stereotype)
- Do you think stereotypes reflect reality? Why?
- Do you have the right to choose your activities?
- Are there certain emotions that only boys or girls can feel? If so, which ones? Why?

### Conclusion

We can all like the same activities and feel the same emotions, whatever our gender or sex is.

Items on the cards

COOK	WEAR MAKE-UP	WATCH ROMANTIC MOVIES
BUILD A TREE HOUSE	FEEL STRESSED	CRY
REPAIR CAR	DANCE	SEW, STITCH OR KNIT
PLAY HOCKEY	DRAW	PLAY VIDEO GAMES
BABYSIT	PLAY GUITAR	SING
BE SENSITIVE	BE ANGRY	