

13 GOOD IDEAS TO LIVE BY



1 Humans have diverse qualities.
Difference is a good thing.

2 Boys and girls are not "opposites."
We are all humans.

3 There are more than two sexes:
male, female, and intersex.

4 No sex or gender is better than any other
sex or gender. We all have equal worth.

5 Calling a boy a "girl" or calling a girl a
"boy" as a put down is not OK.

6 There is no "right" way or "wrong"
way to be a girl. There is no "right" way
or "wrong" way to be a boy.

7 There are no "boy things" and "girl things."
Anyone can like anything.

8 Some males understand themselves to be girls on the inside.
Their bodies and who they are don't match.

9 Some females understand themselves to be boys on
the inside. Their bodies and who they are don't match.

10 Individuals can be attracted romantically to people
of the same or different biological sex or gender.

11 Some children have two dads, some have two moms.
All families are OK just the way they are.

12 Making other people feel bad about their body,
their gender, who they are attracted to, or
who their parents are is not OK.

13 Gender is not a measure of people's worth.
It's just a part of who they are.



8 STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT HEALTHY, EGALITARIAN RELATIONSHIPS AMONG YOUTH

1 Call out **“boys will be boys” thinking**, which gives boys permission to set a low bar for personal conduct and demeans them by implying we can’t expect them to do better.



More important than telling boys to “respect girls” is **cultivating their own self-respect**. People with self-respect are more likely to treat others fairly and with kindness.

2

3 Help young people **deconstruct words** like “slut”— the linchpin of the sexual double standard — and language implying that “real boys” are sexually aggressive.



4 Help both boys and girls **recognize mistreatment** for what it is.

5 **Cultivate respect** for all genders, and for sex itself.

6 Encourage girls to be assertive, but **recognize that sexism, like racism, is a systemic problem** that requires action on multiple fronts.



Empower girls by giving them permission to choose “yes” or “no” in sexual situations, thereby **supporting their right to self-determination**.

7

8 Encourage boys and girls to **understand sexual behavior within the context of human intimacy**, not as a “transactional” activity.