LGBTQIA2S+ Inclusive Language

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement





When referring to specific people, if you are unsure of their gender, you could say:

- The person's name
- The person wearing black
- The person with their hand raised
- The individual who just spoke
- The person standing over there (gesture)

Instead of "ladies and gentlemen," "boys and girls," "you guys," or other similarly gendered language, you could say:

- Everyone
- Colleagues
- Friends
- Folks
- Children
- "You all", "all," or "y'all"
- People of all genders
- People

Considerations in Spanish:

- Todes (instead of todos/todas)
- Amigues (instead of amigos/amigas)

Pronouns are the words you would like others to use when talking about you in the third person. Some examples include "she/her", "he/him", "they/them", or "ze/hir" [pronounced: zee/heer]

- Some people use specific pronouns, any pronouns, or none.

  Example of using "they/them" in a sentence:

  John is substituting for me today, and they are an incredible mathematician
- Do not refer to the pronouns that transgender and gender-expansive people use as "preferred pronouns," as this implies a choice about one's gender. Use the terms "personal pronouns", "identified pronouns," "self-identified pronouns," or "pronouns" instead.
- When using pronouns in Spanish, consider this example: Elle instead of él or ella
- Learn more: Pronouns Matter
- For Spanish: GLAAD Guía de términos y definiciones para los medios
- Gender in Language Project

For more information, please contact us: PFCE@ecetta.info | 1-866-763-6481

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