

Gender Stereotype Detective Activities

TV detective

Aim: To investigate the use of sexist or gendered language in TV programmes and how characters might be shown using gender stereotypes

Suggested time: 10 minutes at the start to introduce the activity and talk about gendered language and gender stereotypes. The activity itself can then be done over a week. Children could have a simple 'Gender Detectives Notebook' or a piece of paper and write down any examples at the point of seeing them.

Notes for parents: this activity is aimed at TV shows that are specifically made for children aged 2-12 but can also work for TV shows and YouTube videos that older children might be watching. You'll know your child and what they like or are allowed to watch!

Activity:

Over a week, whenever you are watching TV or online videos, write down any gendered language you hear or any gender stereotypes you see.

You might want to look out for:

- Female characters' clothing, accessories and appearance: are they shown with pink bows, long hair, pink clothing or long eyelashes?
- Male characters being the hero, being active and sporty, or being the 'brains' in a group of cartoon characters
- Dads appearing a bit hopeless, or not able to do things around the house
- Mums doing most of the work at home
- Girls being emotional and allowed to cry; boys having to be strong and brave
- There will be many others: how often is the girl the 'sidekick' and the boy the lead character? What language do TV characters use about each other or to their families?

Discuss with your child:

Talk about what you have seen, heard and noted down. Which children's TV programmes show the most gender stereotypes? Which show the least? Does it matter? Which TV characters do you identify with the most, and why?