

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR GENDER EQUALITY (AGES 0-4*)

Picture books are a wonderful way to spark open and age-appropriate conversations with your children about gender equality. Here is a small selection of high-quality books to get you started. The age ranges listed are guides only - picture books are for everyone!

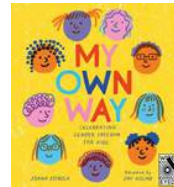


RRP: \$25

Everyone is Equal by Jayneen Sanders

This short book is a simple introduction to gender equality, focussing on the fact that everyone is equal.

Example discussion questions are provided throughout the book and at the back, for parents and caregivers to explore with their children.



RRP: \$25

My Own Way by Joana Estrela

This colourful book celebrates children's diverse interests, no matter their gender.

Example discussion questions:

- What games do you enjoy?
- This person has colourful fingernails! Have you ever had your nails painted? What colours would you choose?
- Are you just as kind to boys and girls?



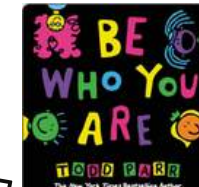
RRP: \$20 EACH

ABC What Can He / She Be by Snap Studio

These two alphabet books celebrate the different roles children aim for, no matter their gender.

Example discussion questions:

- Would you like to be a...?
- This story showed lots of boys doing different jobs; could girls do them too?
- This story showed lots of girls doing different jobs; could boys do them too?



RRP: \$25

Be Who You Are by Todd Parr

A fun look at how our unique traits, interests and strengths are what makes us special.

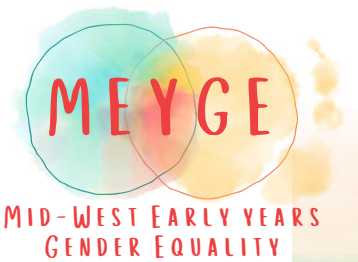
Example discussion questions:

- Look at all these clothes! Do you enjoy dressing up?
- I can see a family in that spaceship. Who is in their family? Is that different to our family? What's the same?
- I can see some kids being energetic and other kids being calm - which way do you like to be, or do you like to be both at different times?

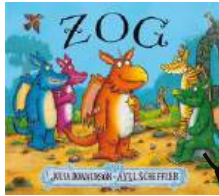


If you don't want to buy these books, the Geraldton Regional Library stocks many of these titles. Otherwise, you can go to YouTube and search for "read aloud [book title]"

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR GENDER EQUALITY (AGES 2-7*)



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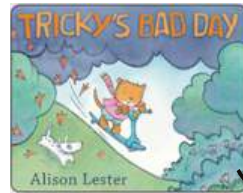
RRP: \$20

Zog by Julia Donaldson

A light-hearted look at stereotypes that shows we can aim for non-traditional roles if we want to!

Example discussion questions:

- Is Zog good at being a dragon? Why?
- Is it OK that Zog is different to the other dragons in his class?
- Do you think the princess would make a good doctor? Why?



RRP: \$15

Tricky's Bad Day by Alison Lester

A gentle look at different ways we can deal with being in a bad mood. Includes a stay-at-home dad to show non-traditional family roles.

Example discussion questions:

- Tricky pushed his little sister when she was in his way - what could he have done instead so everyone was safe?
- Why did Tricky shout "I want to be bad!"?
- How did Tricky's dad help him to feel better?



RRP: \$20 EACH

Some Boys / Girls by Nelly Thomas

These two books celebrate some of the many different interests boys/girls can have. It is also a lovely display of different looking children.

Example discussion questions:

- There are lots of different boys/girls in this book; do any of them remind you of you? How about anyone from playgroup? In our family?
- Did you see any children doing something you would like to try?



RRP: \$10

I Could Be, You Could Be by Karen Owen

Join two children on an adventure to imagine all the things they could be!

Example discussion questions:

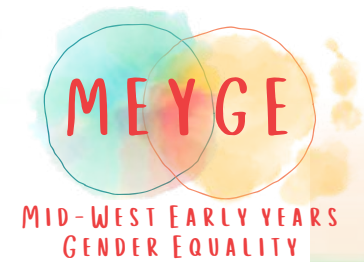
- Is there anything in this book that you would like to be?
- Is there anything you'd like to be that is not in the book?
- Can you tell me which of these ideas use lots of imagination and which are things you really could be?



Remember that you can pause at any time to ask questions about what is happening on a page, you don't need to wait until the end!

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR GENDER EQUALITY (AGES 3-9*)

Picture books are a wonderful way to spark open and age-appropriate conversations with your children about gender equality. Here is a small selection of high-quality books to get you started. The age ranges listed are guides only - picture books are for everyone!



RRP: \$35

How to Be a Lion **by Ed Vere**

This book is all about being true to yourself and standing up for your friends. It is a great example of mixed-gender friendships.

Example discussion questions:

- Is Leonard good at being a lion? Why?
- Is Marianne a good friend? Why?
- Is there only one way to be a lion? How about a person?



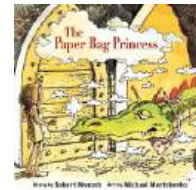
RRP: \$10

Baking with Dad **by Aurora Cacciapuoti**

This lively picture book demonstrates non-traditional roles with dad doing the cooking.

Example discussion questions:

- Do you like cooking? Who do you like to cook with?
- What's your favourite part of cooking?
- Who does the cooking at home? Who cleans up?



RRP: \$15

The Paper Bag Princess **by Robert Munsch**

This classic book is a fairytale with a non-traditional twist! Princess Elizabeth outsmarts the dragon and rescues the prince.

Example discussion questions:

- Was Elizabeth a good princess? Why?
- How is Elizabeth different to other princesses you've seen in books?
- Why did Ronald say Elizabeth wasn't a real princess?



RRP: \$25 EACH

My Shadow is Pink / Purple **by Scott Stuart**

These two books explore themes of gender identity, self-acceptance, equality and diversity.

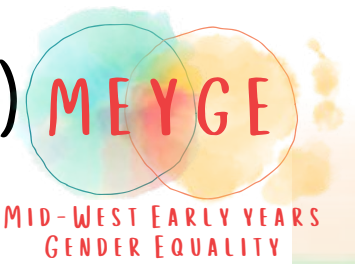
Example discussion questions:

- What colour is your shadow?
- What does your shadow like to wear?
- Does it matter if boys want to wear a dress or a skirt?
- How do you think people felt when they could choose what colour their shadow was?



You may notice some similar questions here; you can use these examples to help you ask questions about books and characters not included in this list.

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR GENDER EQUALITY (AGES 3-9*_{CONT.})



Picture books are a wonderful way to spark open and age-appropriate conversations with your children about gender equality. Here is a small selection of high-quality books to get you started. The age ranges listed are guides only - picture books are for everyone!



RRP: \$20

No Difference Between Us by Jayneen Sanders

This book includes a lovely example of mixed-gender friendships. Ben & Jess like to do some of the same activities, but they are also different.

Example discussion questions are provided throughout the book and at the back, for parents and caregivers to explore with their children.



RRP: \$20

Girls Can Do Anything by Caryl Hart

This confidence building book empowers its audience by inspiring dreams and celebrating what makes us unique.

Example discussion questions:

- We just saw lots of things girls can do - can boys do these things too?
- Did any of the characters in this book remind you of you? Of anyone at playgroup? Or in our family?



RRP: \$25

Don't Fall For The Trick by Jennifer Bain

This book helps kids and their grown-ups see the tricks that are holding everyone back so we can overcome gender stereotypes and create positive change.

Example discussion questions:

- What are some tricks in this book? Have you heard them in real life?
- Sometimes people say tricks without knowing it - what could you say to someone if you heard them say a trick?



RRP: \$30

My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis

This beautiful book was inspired by the author's son and shows how love and acceptance create a brighter world for all.

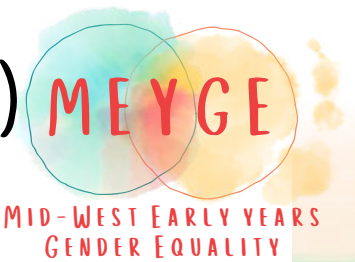
Example discussion questions:

- Why do you think people laughed at the princess boy? How do you think that made him feel?
- Does it hurt anyone if boys wear a dress? Does it hurt anyone if people laugh at them?

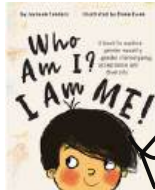


As the books in this list normalise different ways of being and non-traditional gender roles, they are beneficial for children even if you don't ask questions about gender equality. But talking about the story and characters brings you into the story too!

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR GENDER EQUALITY (AGES 3-9*_{CONT.})



Picture books are a wonderful way to spark open and age-appropriate conversations with your children about gender equality. Here is a small selection of high-quality books to get you started. The age ranges listed are guides only - picture books are for everyone!



RRP: \$15

***Who Am I? I Am Me!* by Jayneen Sanders**

This book explores gender equality, stereotyping, acceptance and diversity with joy and pride.

Example discussion questions are provided throughout the book and at the back, for parents and caregivers to explore with their children.



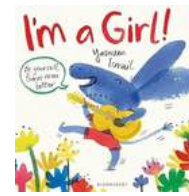
RRP: \$15

***Julian is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love**

In this fabulous book, Julian is inspired to dress as a mermaid while visiting Coney Island. What will grandma think?

Example discussion questions:

- Why do you think Julian wanted to be a mermaid?
- What is something you like to pretend to be?
- Are there any rules about what you can be when you use your imagination?



RRP: \$25

***I'm a Girl!* by Yasmeen Ismail**

This book features a loud and messy mouse who also happens to be a girl. It is a great example of how we don't always have to fit within our gender stereotypes.

Example discussion questions:

- Why do you think the other characters thought the mouse was a boy?
- Can girls be messy and loud? Can boys be quiet and kind?
- Is there anything you like to do that people think is only for boys/girls?



RRP: \$25

***Red* by Michael Hall**

This marvellous picture book features a blue crayon that has accidentally been labelled as red. Follow his journey as he learns who he really is.

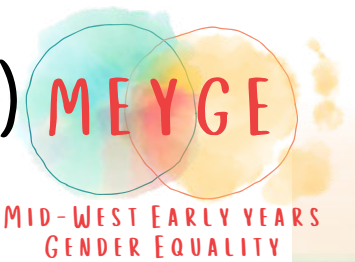
Example discussion questions:

- Why did Red have trouble being red?
- How do you think Red felt when he couldn't do the things other red crayons could do?
- Why did Berry ask Red to draw the ocean? How did that make him feel?

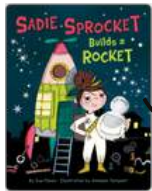


You don't need to throw away much loved books if they don't obviously support gender equality. Use the story as an opportunity to discuss how what's in the book is not the only way of being.

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR GENDER EQUALITY (AGES 3-9*_{CONT.})



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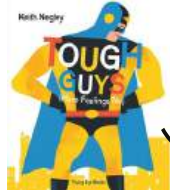
RRP: \$30

Sadie Sprocket Builds a Rocket by Sue Fliess

This book is all about reaching for the stars. Sadie is a great role model for girls in science, and she never quits chasing her dreams.

Example discussion questions:

- Would you like to be an astronaut? Where would you go?
- Sadie built her rocket; do you like building things too?



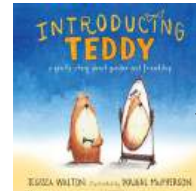
RRP: \$25

Tough Guys Have Feelings Too by Keith Negley

This book takes a humorous look at how we all have emotions. Even superheroes!

Example discussion questions:

- What makes a tough guy?
- Can a girl be tough?
- Do boys and girls have the same emotions?
- I saw some tough guys crying - does that make them less tough?



RRP: \$15

Introducing Teddy by Jessica Walton

Exploring friendship and acceptance through a boy and his teddy - Thomas. Thomas wants to be called Tilly because she's actually a girl teddy.

Example discussion questions:

- Why was Teddy scared at the beginning of the story?
- How do you think Tilly felt, playing with Ava and Erroll?
- How would you feel if one of your toys told you they wanted to be a different gender?



RRP: \$15

The Not-So-Perfect Princess & the Not-So-Dreadful Dragon by Jayneen Sanders

Another fun twist on the gender roles found in most fairytales, Princess Petal is not what most people expect a perfect princess to be.

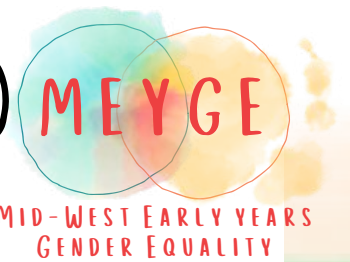
Example discussion questions:

- Why was Petal not a perfect princess?
- What are some good things about Petal?
- Was the dragon a good dragon? Why?
- Why were people scared of the dragon even though he was gentle?



These questions aren't about right or wrong, they are an opportunity to explore ideas with your child, to share your values and to understand how they are experiencing their world.

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR GENDER EQUALITY (AGES 3-9*_{CONT.})



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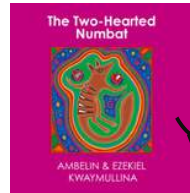
RRP: \$35

Teo's Tutu by Maryann Jacob Macias

This sweet book follows Teo, who loves to wear tutus but is worried he might get too much attention if he wears it to a concert.

Example discussion questions:

- Do you like to dance?
- Teo was worried about wearing his tutu; have you ever felt worried about what you are wearing?
- What would you say if a boy wore a tutu to playgroup?



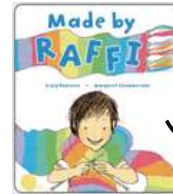
RRP: \$15

The Two-Hearted Numbat by Ambelin & Ezekiel Kwaymullina

An engaging story about Numbat finding the value in both sides of his personality.

Example discussion questions:

- Can you think of a time you had a feather-heart? What about a stone-heart?
- Have you got a different heart that isn't stone or feather?
- Do you think it's better to have two hearts or just one?



RRP: \$20

Made by Raffi by Craig Pomranz

This story looks at Raffi, who likes different things to most of the other kids at school. As the story continues, Raffi's skills might save the day!

Example discussion questions:

- Raffi said he feels different to other kids at school; do you ever feel different to other people?
- Why do you think people teased Raffi? How might that have made him feel?
- Do you have a special interest that is different to your friends?



RRP: \$35

Sparkle Boy by Leslea Newman

This story is about Casey, a young boy who loves sparkles, and his big sister, who thinks sparkles are just for girls.

Example discussion questions:

- Why does Jessie keep telling Casey that boys can't wear certain things?
- How do you think Casey felt when the kids in the library teased him?
- Is there anything you wish you could wear but don't think you can?



Children at this age may have conflicting understandings they voice (eg, saying a character is a boy because he has short hair, even though women in their family have short hair). This is an opportunity to remind them that there are lots of different ways to be us.

RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST FOR GENDER EQUALITY (AGES 4-11*)

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RRP: \$20

Rosie Revere, Engineer **by Andrea Beaty**

This book is all about persisting with your interests and ideas. Rosie and her aunt are both great role models for girls in science.

Example discussion questions:

- Rosie likes making new inventions; do you enjoy designing new things?
- How did Rosie's aunt help Rosie?
- Have you ever made a brilliant first flop?



RRP: \$25

Ada Twist, Scientist **by Andrea Beaty**

This book was inspired by real-life makers Ada Lovelace and Marie Curie and champions girls being curious and working in science.

Example discussion questions:

- Do you think Ada makes a good scientist? Why?
- Why do you think Ada's parents got upset with her? Would they have been as upset if her brother did the same thing?



RRP: \$20

Bold Australian Girl **by Jess Black**

This book explores the strength of messages parents give their children as a bold Australian girl explores what she is great at.

Example discussion questions:

- What are some of the things the girl enjoyed doing? Do you enjoy any of those things?
- Why do you think she feels different sometimes?
- Do you think she will achieve any of her dreams? Why?



RRP: \$15

Two Mates **by Maggie Prewett**

This book follows Jack and Raf, two best friends who have some things in common but are also different in lots of ways.

Example discussion questions:

- What do Jack & Raf have in common? What is different about them? Is there only one way to be a boy?
- Do you think the differences between Jack and Raf make them closer or keep them apart?



As your children grow and the books they read become more detailed, you can start exploring concepts that relate to gender in more subtle ways such as perfectionism, persistence, courage and inclusion.