

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review 2024

Gender Explained

Year Published/Revised: 2019

Publisher: CBC Kids

Website: Gender explained | CBC Kids News (youtube.com) CBC Kids News

Full or Supplemental: Supplemental

Grade Level: 5 - 8

Student Population: General

Duration/Number of Lessons: 2-minute video

Format and Features: YouTube video

Materials Provide Support for online or in-person learning: No materials provided

Available in Multiple Languages: No

Evidence-based/informed: not evident

National Standards Alignment: No

Consistent with WA Health Education Standards? Yes

Consistent with Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Law? Yes

Consistent with AIDS Omnibus Act? N/A

Inclusive Materials/Strategies: Yes

Bias-Free Materials: Yes



Primary Subject Areas and Topics Covered:

- Anatomy and Physiology, Reproduction, and Pregnancy (Pregnancy for Grade 6+)
- Growth and Development/Puberty
- Self-Identity (gender stereotypes, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.)
- Prevention (general):
 - HIV/AIDS Prevention
 - Pregnancy Prevention
 - STD Prevention
 - Health Care and Prevention Resources
- Healthy Relationships (general):
 - Affirmative Consent
 - Bystander Training
 - Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Communication Skills for Healthy Relationships
 - The development of meaningful relationships and avoidance of exploitative relationships
 - Understanding the influences of family, peers, community, and the media throughout life on healthy sexual relationships

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer 350

This short, animated video explains the difference between sex, gender, and gender identity in age-appropriate ways. The characters represent a range of people of color. The main character, a young person, presumably middle school-ish age, does the explaining. Sex and gender are defined using the terms penis and vulva describing a person's sex. The video stops short of using the term transgender, but describes the lived experience of those whose bodies (sex) may not align with their identities. Gender stereotypes are addressed thoughtfully, including pointing out the influences of marketing on gendered toys/items. There is not a lesson plan, nor is there a teacher guide or assessment tool provided. Ideally, a teacher guide of some sort would accompany this video, as teachers would want to pre-teach prior to viewing, and may benefit from having some follow up questions or activity to accompany this.

Reviewer 351

Strengths: concise and direct; uses easy-to-understand language and simple visuals to help explain what the difference between gender and sex are. While the video doesn't shy away from language like "penis" and "vulva", all the visuals are appropriate for all ages. (no genitalia shown.)

Shortcomings: doesn't use terminology associated with the topic, like "transgender" or "cisgender". The video is unbiased, perhaps to a fault, because it doesn't acknowledge the transphobic biases that exist in society at large, instead acting as if everyone agrees that gender

and sex are not the same. Feels more appropriate for the younger end of the age bracket.

Reviewer 355

This is a 2.5 minute long animated introductory video on the concepts of sex and gender. The video is engaging, has racially diverse characters, and has the option to turn on closed captioning. The video is suitable for grades 6-8. Although this video is discussing sex and gender, the video reinforces the gender binary. There does not seem to be any representation of gender non-conforming or transgender individuals, or people who fit outside the gender binary, despite the topic. The video mentions that "there are a whole bunch of possibilities" when it comes to gender, but otherwise exclusively uses binary gendered language and imagery. The video reduces sex to penises and vulvas, but does mention that "sometimes it's more complicated". Although it mentions that sex is more complicated than external genitals, this oversimplification may alienate intersex students. The video describes gender as something felt on the inside, implying that an individual has an inside and outside gender and that our genitals are inherently gendered. This language may not resonate with gender non-conforming and transgender students. If this video is utilized to teach about sex and gender, it should be paired with additional resources and instruction.

Reviewer 357

The Gender Explained resource is a free video supplement produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. This resource is about 2.5 minutes long and primarily takes the following prospective on gender:

- A person's body parts may or may not match how that person feels on the inside.
- There are a "whole bunch of possibilities" when it comes to gender.
- Figuring out what feels right for you regarding gender is a part of growing up.

A secondary theme in this video is that toys, clothes, and games are genderless with no "girl things" or "boy things". Rather these constructs are categories made up primarily by retailers. Educators may see strengths in this video as it portrays a variety of characters including members of protected classes. This video is also visually engaging and sprinkles in a bit of humor.

Reviewer 367

This video provides a very clear and basic distinction between gender and sex. The information is accurate and uses the latest science-based findings. Facts are presented without bias or judgement. The video is easy to understand and age-appropriate. The dialogue helps to reinforce the concept of the difference between gender and sex. The video concludes with some humor and keeps the content factual but light.

Med/Sci Reviewer 367

This video provides an unbiased and scientifically accurate description of gender. The language and tone are age appropriate as well as the animation and story line is all. I would use this video in the classroom. What is missing is a discussion guide or some other resource for an educator

to rely on if they are not familiar with teaching this topic and want to answer questions and check for understanding. The source is Radio Canada the public broadcasting channel of Canada.

Med/Sci Reviewer 369

Short but informative. Could have talked a little bit about intersex though, only alluded to that and would have been easy to add in.