The Role of Trusted Adults in Creating Supportive Environments for LGBTQ+ Youth

Building the Heart of Successful Schools
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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent

Visualization
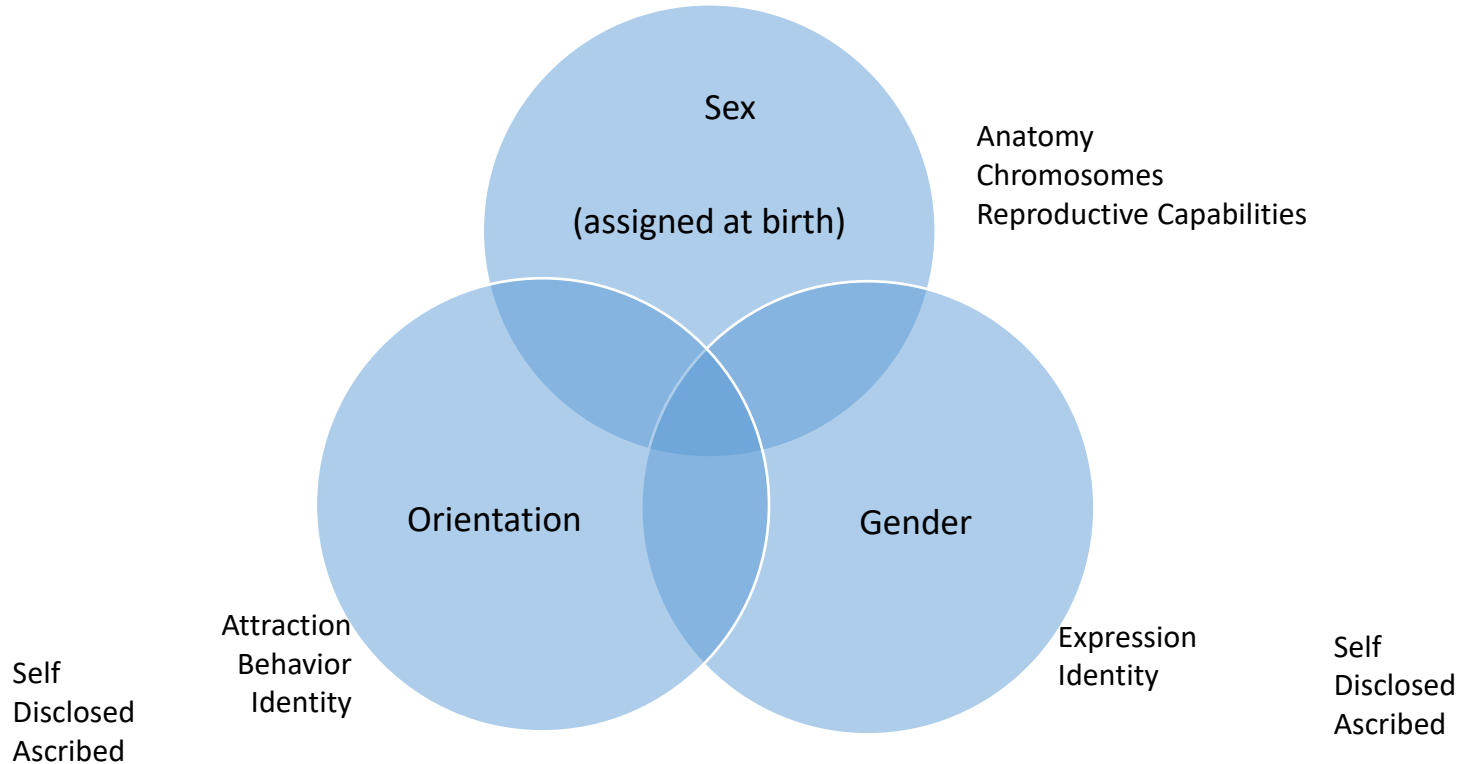
One word reaction

Table Talk

- What were familiar experiences?   Unfamiliar experiences?

- What opportunities to be supportive were missed?

- What could a trusted adult do?

- (Think to yourself) Are you ready?
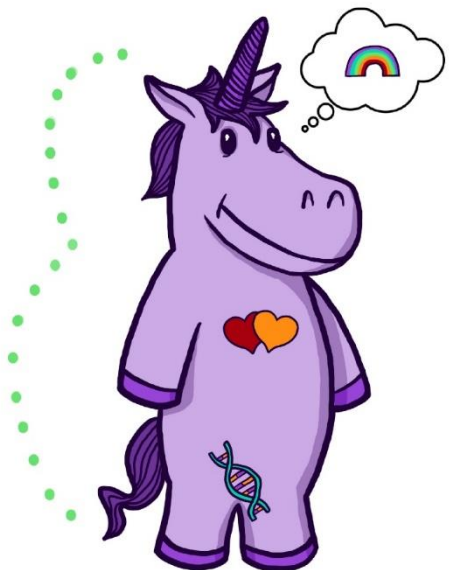
Sex, Gender, and Orientation 101

Terminology and Concepts: Sex vs gender vs orientation

The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources

Gender Identity
- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression
- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth
- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Physically Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender
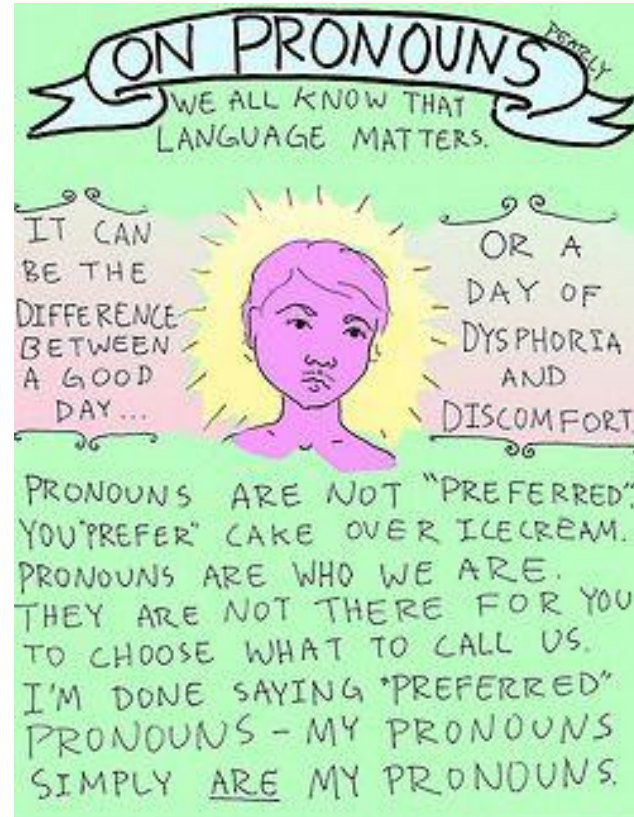
Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

Terminology and concepts: Transgender umbrella

- Umbrella term

- Current definition

- Cisgender

Terminology and concepts: Transgender umbrella

- Transition

- Pronouns

- Terms to avoid

Don't do this…

Terminology and concepts:
Terms to avoid

- Phase

- Preference/Choice

- Lifestyle

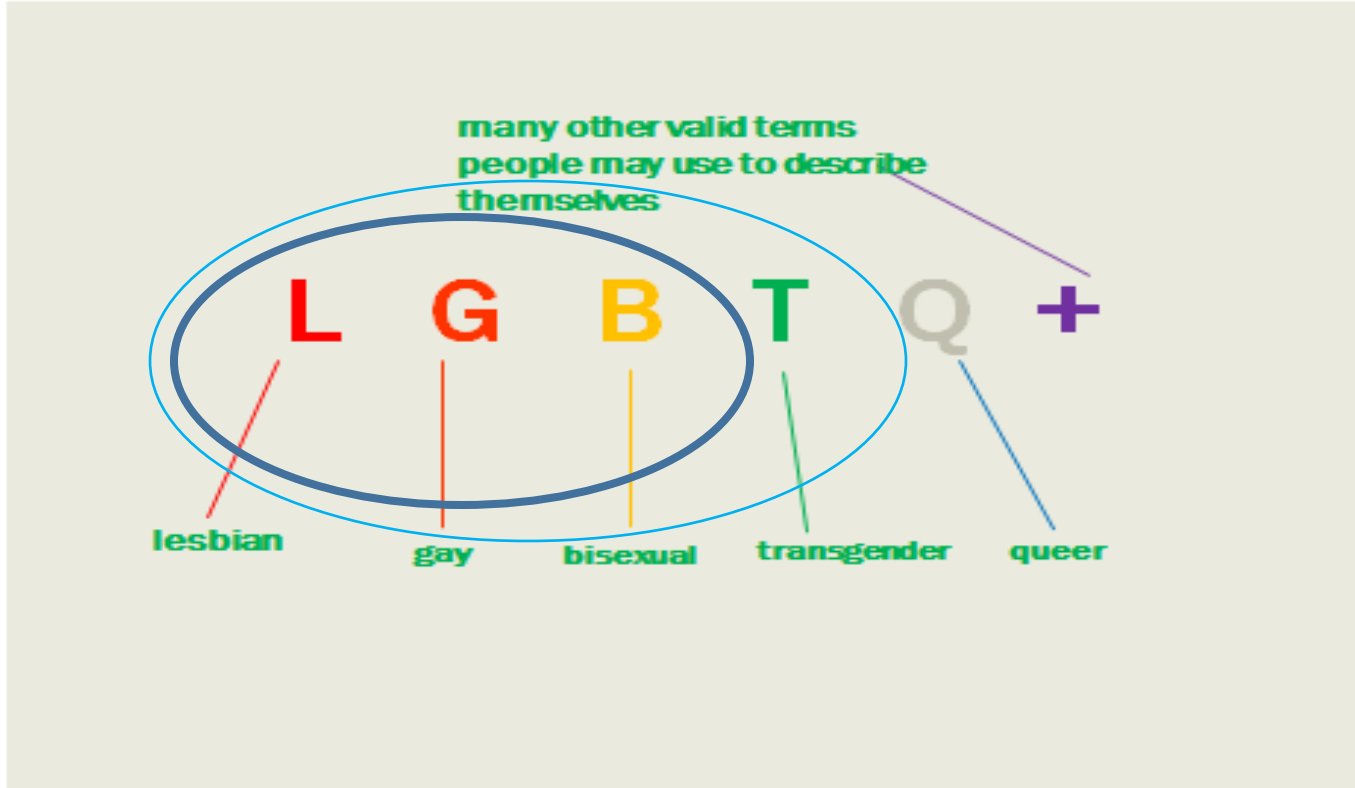- "Real" man, woman, dad, mom, boy, girl

What term *should* I use?

The best term to use is the one they provide (and approve).

Intersections

Data: LGBTQ+

We're everywhere

CENSUS SNAPSHOT

the Williams INSTITUTE

WISCONSIN

DECEMBER 2007

Adam P. Romero, *Public Policy Fellow*
Amanda K. Baumle, *Public Policy Fellow*
M.V. Lee Badgett, *Research Director*
Gary J. Gates, *Senior Policy Fellow*

Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this report provides demographic and economic information about same-sex couples and same-sex couples raising children in Wisconsin. We compare same-sex "unmarried partners," which the Census Bureau defines as an unmarried couple who "shares living quarters and has a close personal relationship," to different-sex married couples in Wisconsin.[1]

Same-sex couple households per 1,000 households
- None present: 0
- Low: 0.01 – 2.99
- Med: 3 – 4.99
- High: 5+

Health disparities for LGBT Youth

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Compared to all students, LGBT youth are **less** likely to:

Have a teacher to talk to

(57.8% LGBT vs. 71% all students)

Feel like they belong at school

(48% LGBT vs. 70.8% all students)

2017 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report, 2018.

Health disparities for LGBT Youth

And ***more*** likely to

Experience anxiety

    67% LGBT vs. almost 40% all students

Consider suicide
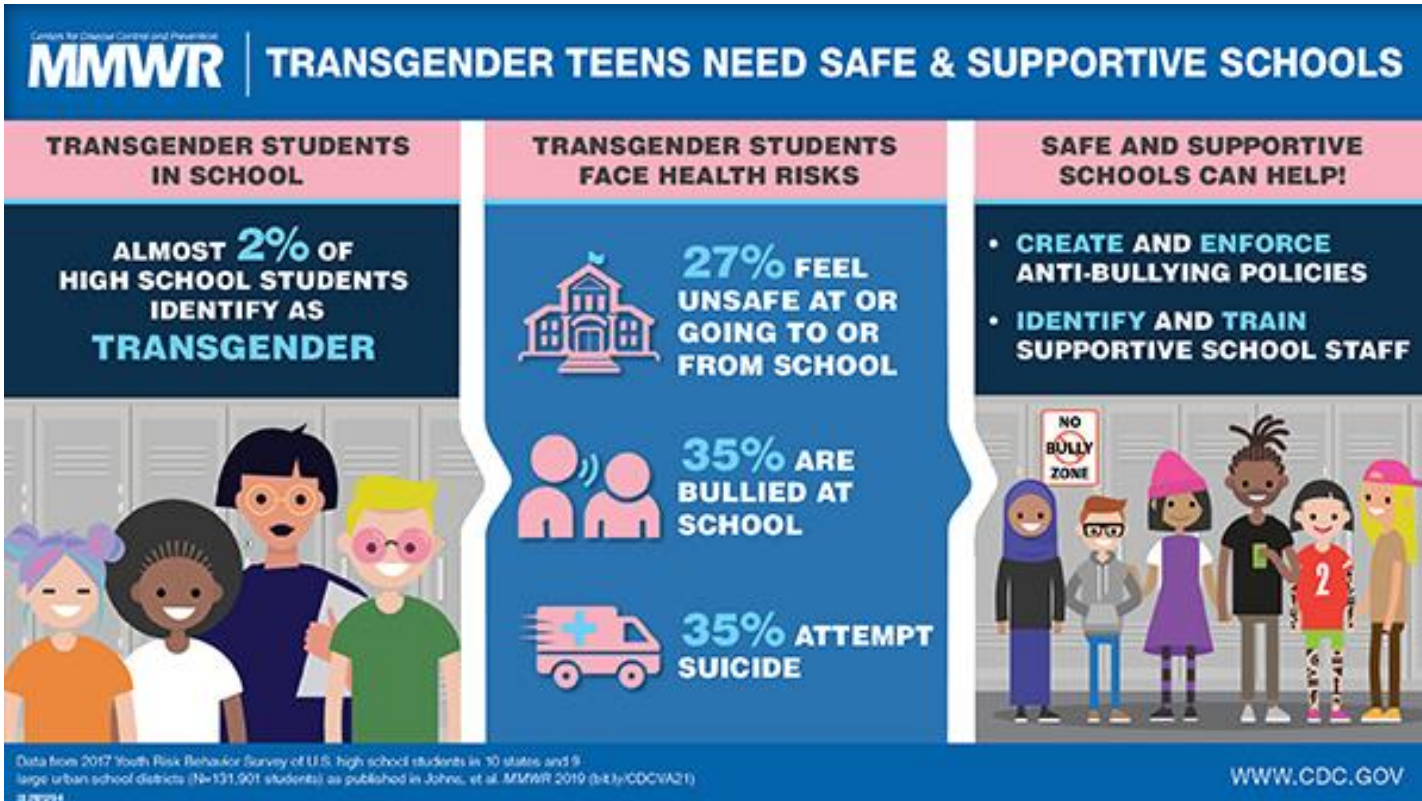
    41% LGBT vs 16% all students

Have been raped

    17% LGBT vs 7% all students

2017 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report, 2018.

Health Disparities for Transgender Youth

Why Support for Trans Youth Matters

	Supportive parents	Unsupportive parents
Reported life satisfaction	72%	33%
Described mental health as Very Good or Excellent	70%	15%
Suffered depression	23%	75%
Reported high self esteem	64%	13%
Faced housing problems	0%	55%
Attempted suicide	4%	57%

Trans Student Educational Resources. (2012). Why Support for Trans Youth Matters. Retrieved from http://www.transstudent.org/youthsupport

LGBTQ Youth and homelessness

Up to 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ. The most common cause of homelessness is being forced out or having run away.

Choi, S.K., Wilson, B.D.M., Shelton, J., & Gates, G. (2015). Serving Our Youth 2015: The Needs and Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth Experiencing Homelessness. Los Angeles: The Williams Institute with True Colors Fund.

Health disparities for LGB Youth

But wait….

"For parents and caregivers, a little change – being a little less rejecting and a little more accepting – can make an important difference in reducing a young person's risk for serious health problems, including suicide and HIV."

Family Acceptance Project

Supportive Families, Healthy Children,

C. Ryan, 2009.

Selected Health Disparities Among LGBT Populations

Figure 1: Selected Health Disparities Among LGBT Populations.

Higher rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections
Lower rates of mammography and Pap smear screening
Higher rates of substance abuse
Higher rates of unhealthy weight control/perception
Higher rates of smoking
Higher rates of depression, anxiety
Higher rates of violence victimization

Institute of Medicine. 2011. The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for a Better Understanding. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health. US Department of Health and Human Services. 2012. Available from: http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/ overview.aspx?topicid=25.

Protective Factors:
What Health and Education Professionals Can Do

Positive youth development

Inclusive sexual health education

Gay-straight alliances

Parent engagement

www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/lgbtprotectivefactors.htm

Ways to show inclusion

Specific inclusion

Preventing exclusion

Ways to show inclusion

Communication skills over knowledge

Security in your own identity

Open heart, open mind

Ways to show inclusion

Using your words

Open-ended questions

Questions of understanding, not curiosity

What words do I actually say?

- Tell me more about your family.

- What name or pronoun would you like me to use for you?

- I have not heard that term before. What do you want me to know about you?
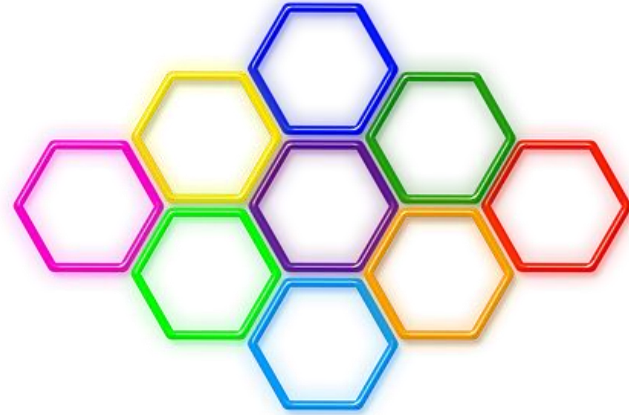
What words do I actually say?

- Good afternoon, learners/friends/superheroes/etc.

- When this activity is done you can find your family and get a snack.

- A kid left their backpack in my office today.

Resources

- GSAFE – Professional Development! Clubs! Policy!

- Welcoming Schools – Books! Younger kid things!

- Gender Spectrum – Trans support plans!

- Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network - School climate data! Kits!

- Transgender Student Education Resources (TSER) – Graphics! That Unicorn!

- WI Department of Public Instruction – Data!

Next steps: One thing to do soon

Questions and close

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