

So your child is **GENDERQUEER!**

IT'S OK! DON'T PANIC. THEY'VE GOT A COOL FLAG TO REPRESENT THEM -->



First of all:

- > CONGRATULATIONS ON HAVING SUCH A COOL KID!!
- > THEY'RE PRETTY SELF AWARE.
- > A+ TO YOU FOR YOUR PARENTING SKILLS.
- > THIS IS LONG, BUT IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT, SO PLEASE READ IT THE WHOLE WAY THROUGH.

THE PROBLEM!

THE PROBLEM IS THAT SOCIETY HAS BRAINWASHED YOU INTO BELIEVING THIS STUPID THING CALLED...



THE GENDER BINARY

"EVERYONE IS EITHER A GIRL OR A BOY"

WELL, THIS IS WRONG!!! ALSO, COLOURS ARE FOR PEOPLE, NOT GENDER!

GENDER ISN'T THAT SIMPLE. SOME PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE AS "MALE" OR "FEMALE" BECAUSE THEY FIT IN THE GENDER BINARY. BUT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE DISCOVERING THAT THEY DON'T FIT INTO THESE ROLES. YOUR CHILD IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO FACE THIS PROBLEM EVERYDAY.

CONGRATULATIONS. YOUR CHILD IS SMART!! THEY HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO EDUCATE THEMSELVES ABOUT THIS COMPLICATED TOPIC.

Alright, but... what about my child!?

ABOUT THEIR GENDER IDENTITY. YOUR CHILD DOES NOT IDENTIFY AS "MALE" OR "FEMALE". THAT MEANS THEY ARE NOT A BOY OR A GIRL!

FROM BIRTH, THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THEY WERE SOMETHING THAT THEY WERE NOT. AND THIS WAS NOT GOOD FOR THEM. BUT DON'T WORRY! EVERYONE DOES IT. PUT THE PAST BEHIND YOU. NOW IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO CHANGE!

ABOUT PRONOUNS. THIS MEANS YOUR CHILD IS NOT A HE OR A SHE. THEY MAY NOT OBJECT OUT LOUD, BUT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE A LOT HAPPIER IF YOU USED GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUNS. SOME OF THEM ARE: THEY, EY, ZE. OR YOU COULD ASK THEM!! IT WILL MAKE THEM REALLY HAPPY.

THINGS THEY MAY WISH TO DO.

- > THEY MAY WISH TO CHANGE THEIR NAME, OR USE A MORE GENDER-NEUTRAL NICKNAME.
- > THEY MAY WISH TO SEE A THERAPIST. THIS CAN BE A TOUGH EXPERIENCE TO GO THROUGH.
- > THEY MAY WISH TO HAVE SURGERY.

MALE

FEMALE

NO.

NOW LET'S GO FURTHER!

SOME IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS YOU SHOULD NOT FORGET.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHILD AND THEIR FEELINGS.

Gender identity:

A PERSON'S OBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF THEIR OWN GENDER. THIS IS WHAT SOMEONE IDENTIFIES AS (IN THEIR HEAD). IT'S NOT RELATED TO THEIR BIOLOGICAL SEX OR APPEARANCE.

SOMEONE CAN IDENTIFY AS MALE OR FEMALE. BUT THOSE ARE NOT THE ONLY EXISTING GENDER IDENTITIES. THOSE GENDER IDENTITIES THAT DO NOT FIT IN THE GENDER BINARY ARE CALLED NON-BINARY IDENTITIES, AND THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM. GENDERQUEER AND NON-BINARY ARE ACTUALLY SINONIMS!

WHY DON'T WE EXPLORE SOME OF THEM?

AGENDER.

NOT IDENTIFYING WITH ANY GENDER, THE FEELING OF HAVING NO GENDER. CAN ALSO BE DEFINED AS GENDER NEUTRAL.

ANDROGYNE.

PHYSICAL ANDROGYNY -> MIXING FEMALE AND MALE CHARACTERISTICS.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ANDROGYNY -> IDENTIFYING SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE MALE AND FEMALE RANGE OF GENDER, OR NOT FITTING INTO EITHER CATEGORY.

GENDER FLUID.

SOMEONE WHOSE GENDER VARIES AND IS NOT FIXED. THIS MEANS THAT THEIR GENDER CAN CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE DAY/SITUATION.

NEUTROIS.

SOMEONE WHO FEELS THEY FALL OUTSIDE THE GENDER BINARY. MANY FEEL NEUTROIS IS A GENDER WHILE OTHERS FEEL AGENDERED.

PANGENDER.

A PERSON WHOSE GENDER IDENTITY IS "MADE" OF MANY GENDER EXPRESSIONS.

GENDER IS A SUPER PERSONAL THING! THE WAY THESE LABELS ARE DEFINED CAN VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON AND IDENTITY TO IDENTITY.

THOSE ARE NOT THE ONLY GENDER IDENTITIES THAT EXIST, SINCE THERE ARE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES IN THE SPECTRUM.

THIS IS THE WAY SOMEONE CHOOSES TO EXPRESS THEIR GENDER IDENTITY PHYSICALLY. (THROUGH CLOTHING, HAIR, ETC.) THIS IS A BIT MORE COMPLICATED!

Gender expression:

IT'S NOT NECESSARILY JUST WITHIN BINARY GENDER!!

IT COULD BE A MIX OF TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES, OR WAY OUTSIDE THE WORLD OF GENDER ROLES.

FOR EXAMPLE: YOU COULD HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED FEMALE AT BIRTH. YOU COULD IDENTIFY AS MALE, BUT YOU COULD EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH TRADITIONAL MALE GENDER ROLES WITH A COUPLE OF TRADITIONAL FEMALE GENDER ROLES THROWN IN THERE. BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER AS LONG AS YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE!

GENDER DISPHORIA!!!

WHAT IS IT? THIS IS WHEN SOMEONE'S GENDER FEELS CLASHES WITH THEIR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE. IT MAKES THEM FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THEIR BODY. SOME PEOPLE HATE THEIR BODIES SO MUCH THAT THEY SELF-HARM OR DEVELOP EATING DISORDERS.

HOW CAN SOMEONE FIGHT IT? IT CAN BE FOUGHT IN VARIOUS WAYS. THIS INCLUDES SURGERY (LIKE A MASTECTOMY) OR SIMPLY DRESSING IN WAYS THAT MAKE THEM FEEL COMFORTABLE IN THEIR OWN BODY.

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD LET YOUR CHILD CHOOSE WHICH CLOTHES THEY'D LIKE TO WEAR OR LET THEM HAVE THEIR DESIRED HAIRCUT!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THESE SIMPLE THINGS CAN MAKE THEM REALLY HAPPY. THESE, AND USING GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUNS!



IMPORTANT STUFF:

YOUR CHILD WANTS TO BE ACCEPTED FOR WHO THEY ARE. THAT MEANS YOU STILL LOVE THEM; FOREVER. THEY ARE STILL THE SAME PERSON THEY ALWAYS WERE. THIS IS JUST A PART YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YET.

THEY WILL HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND. THIS IS PROBABLY CONFUSING FOR YOU. IT'S CONFUSING FOR THEM TOO!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR ANYTHING. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY THEM THINGS OR TREAT THEM DIFFERENTLY. YOU JUST HAVE TO UNDERSTAND AND LOVE THEM ANYWAY.

F.A.Q. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



BUT IT'S SO DIFFICULT NOT TO BE GENDER-SPECIFIC WHEN TALKING TO/ABOUT MY CHILD!

YES. BECAUSE SOCIETY SUCKS. USE YOUR IMAGINATION!! EVEN IF YOU SLIP UP SOMETIMES, YOUR CHILD WILL REALLY APPRECIATE THE EFFORT.

BUT MY CHILD IS REALLY A GIRL/BOY!!!

NO, NO, NO. YOUR CHILD KNOWS THEMSELVES BEST, NOT YOU. PLEASE, STOP AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND.

IT'S JUST A PHASE!

MAYBE IT IS.

BUT YOUR CHILD HAS THOUGHT ABOUT THIS LONG AND HARD BEFORE TRUSTING YOU WITH IT. IT'S PROBABLY BEEN A PART OF THEIR LIFE FOR A LONG TIME, BUT THEY'VE BEEN TOO SCARED TO TELL YOU. DON'T THROW IT BACK IN THEIR FACE. THEY'LL BE REALLY SAD.

WOULDN'T IT MAKE THEIR LIFE HARDER?

PROBABLY, BUT SOCIETY IS IMPROVING.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOUR CHILD IS HAPPY AND TRUE TO THEMSELVES. AND YOU CAN MAKE IT A LITTLE BIT EASIER. YOU GOT THE POWER!



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU ARE NOW SUPER READY TO SUPPORT AND UNDERSTAND YOUR GENDERQUEER CHILD.

EVEN THOUGH IT CAN BE A BIT AWKWARD, PLEASE TALK TO THEM ABOUT THIS. THEY'LL BE REALLY HAPPY TO EXPLAIN THEIR FEELINGS AND SPEAK UP NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE BASICS.

THEY REALLY WANT YOUR SUPPORT AND ACCEPTANCE.

ALTHOUGH THIS SPREAD EXPLAINS THE BASICS, THERE ARE LOTS OF WEBSITES AND ARTICLES THAT CAN HELP YOU. I RECOMMEND YOU TO TALK TO THEM AND DO SOME RESEARCH ON GENDER IDENTITIES, BECAUSE THERE ARE LOTS OF LABELS THAT ARE NOT DEFINED HERE!

ALSO, PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT AND USE THE PRONOUNS THEY ASK YOU TO USE. THIS WILL MAKE THEM FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE AND SHOW THEM THAT YOU SUPPORT THEM. EVEN GETTING THEIR DESIRED HAIRCUT OR LETTING THEM CHOOSE THEIR CLOTHES CAN MAKE THEM FEEL MUCH BETTER. GENDER DISPHORIA IS TERRIBLE.

