HOW TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CLASSROOM

by:

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You may believe that your students are too young for gender talks as an elementary school teacher. But did you know that as soon as four years old, youngsters display gender biased beliefs? The earlier we can instill in youngsters the concept that all gender identities (including their own) are worthy of respect, the better all pupils will be equipped for success.

Gender equality entails empowering all pupils and ensuring that they have equal access to human rights. It also entails correcting biases pupils have about themselves or other gender identities. As a teacher, you’ll work with a diverse group of kids, some of whom may struggle to comprehend their own or other students’ gender. That’s why it’s critical to be aware of your students’ identities and to find ways to affirm them. You can help your pupils see themselves and others in a new light.

It's critical that all members of the class, regardless of gender, have an opportunity to succeed. By questioning established prejudices and providing equal chances for your students, you may assist achieve gender equality in your classroom. People of all genders will feel welcomed and appreciated in an inclusive educational atmosphere.

A well-educated person is more likely to grow up healthy and have more job prospects. This boosts their chances of producing healthy children while also assisting them in obtaining an education. The outcomes have an impact on future generations when all students, male and female, have equal access to educational opportunities.
Acceptance of people from various walks of life is really essential. Children should be taught to be open-minded. Teachers are one of the most effective resources for assisting youngsters in overcoming gender bias. They can help children deal with conflict and respond to prejudice in the real world by being aware of gender bias.

It starts in the classroom, with the instructor, to provide more equal educational chances for kids. A good teacher treats their students equitably and creates an environment in which they feel equally capable of participating.

1. Be a Role Model for Your Students

Imitation is a common way for students, especially younger ones, to learn. As a teacher, be aware of your own gender biases and strive to correct them as soon as possible.

Empower your kids to believe in their ability to achieve their goals regardless of their gender identification in appropriate conditions, and that their gender is an asset, not a hindrance. Also, in class, use terminology that is inclusive of transgender and non-binary students, such as utilizing a student's preferred name and pronouns, even if they differ from their school records.

2. Don’t Connect Gender to an Ability or Personality Trait

Our language can sometimes perpetuate gender stereotypes. Be conscious of the language you use in class, and avoid making gender-based assumptions about someone's aptitude, job, or personality.

To challenge your students' perceptions and promote gender equity, incorporate a female construction worker or a male nurse in a class assignment (such as a story problem). It's also a good idea to avoid making broad gender assumptions in class, such as believing that males are louder and girls are quieter, or that all of your students identify as their natal sex.
3. Include Gender Equality in Your Curriculum

When it comes to gender, many textbooks are problematic. They frequently leave out many significant female figures, marginalize women's perspectives, and generalize gender roles in negative ways. If you have the option to choose your textbook, look for one that is known for treating women and men equally.

If not, try supplementing your curriculum by educating your kids about men and women who resisted society's gender stereotypes and made significant changes in their communities. Gender nonconforming and transgender people can also be useful to include in your curriculum to help children with these identities feel represented and accepted.

4. Teach Students to Be Aware of Personal Biases

Making your kids aware of gender discrimination in the classroom is one of the most effective strategies to combat it. Teach pupils about implicit bias, or the ideas we may have about ourselves or others as a result of hearing sexist messaging. [3]

Tell your kids that many people have these prejudices, but that this does not make them bad people. The most important thing is for pupils to recognize their own biases. They can then challenge them to actively change such stereotypes, recognizing that a person's abilities are not dependent on their gender.

References:

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