

GENDER EXPRESSIONS

Role Plays

Use the role play examples to help you think about teasing and bullying. Then discuss them with your class.

Students are playing different games and sports at recess. One girl really wants to play basketball, and so far only boys are playing. The boys tell her she can't play. When she goes to complain to some of the girls, they tell her she can't play with them either because they don't want to play with a "tomboy."

A group of children is playing at the park after school one day. A boy trips and falls, and he skins his knee. He starts to cry really hard, and no one comforts him. He gets up and sits on a bench, still crying. Two other kids come over to him and tell him to stop being such a sissy—boys don't cry so much over something silly like a skinned knee.

During reading class one day, one of the girls in the class keeps calling out. She often acts silly and disrupts the class. Several of the boys in the class are doing this too. When the teacher lets students make their own small groups to finish a project, no one wants to work with that girl. Her feelings are hurt, but her classmates shrug and tell her she should stop acting so rough.

A boy comes to school one day in a great mood because his older sister let him wear her sparkly silver nail polish on his fingernails and toenails. When he gets to his class, though, the other children give him funny looks and start calling him names. No one will sit next to him at lunch or play with him at recess.