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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Definition of Gender

"Gender refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men, such as norms, roles, and relationships of and between groups of women and men. It varies from society to society and can be changed," and "the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women." ~ *World Health Organization*

"Gender is cultural and is the term to use when referring to women and men as social groups." ~ *American Psychological Association*

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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Definition of Sex


"Sex refers to the biological differences between males and females, such as the genitalia and genetic differences," and "Sex refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women." ~ *World Health Organization*

"Sex is biological; use it when the biological distinction is predominant." ~ *American Psychological Association*

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Understanding Gender

AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION FOR EDUCATORS & PARENTS



4-PART SERIES

- It's In Our Genes
- Understanding Differences
- Building Girls and Boys into Healthy Adults
- Incorporating Gender into Teaching and Learning

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UNDERSTANDING GENDER: SEGMENT 1


It's in our Genes
BABY, YOU WERE BORN THIS WAY!

1. Brain
2. Touch
3. Sight
4. Sound
5. Smell
6. Communication

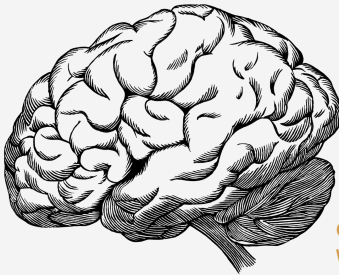
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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

1. *Brain*



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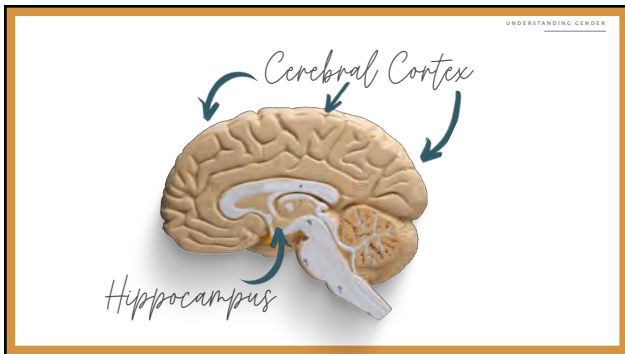
UNDERSTANDING GENDER

The Brain
**Gray and white matter.
Why does it matter?**

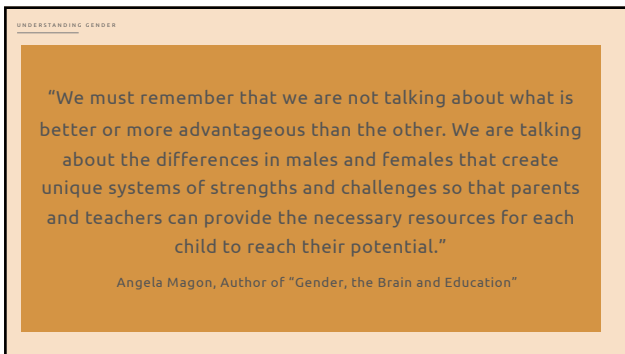
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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Girls

LANGUAGE AND MEMORIES

- Excel in verbal ability and often begin speaking earlier than boys
- Tend to have better reading comprehension and writing ability as adults than males
- Retain stronger and more vivid memories

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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

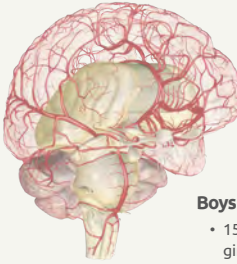
Boys

FOCUS AND VISUALIZATION

- Have less tactile sensitivity
- Better at learning through doing tasks and can focus on the goal
- Have superior visuospatial skills



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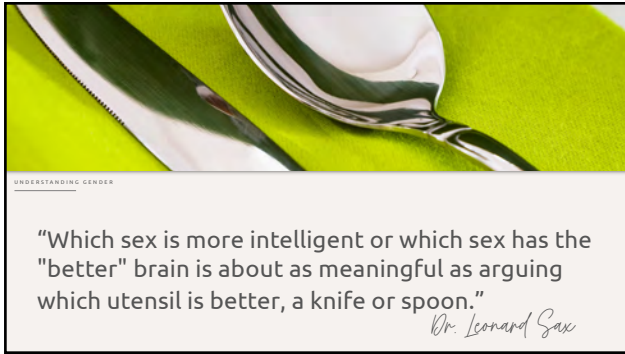


UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Go with the Flow

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15% less blood flow than girls• More blood flow in the prefrontal cortex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smaller brain than boys• More blood flow in the limbic or emotional parts of the brain

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3. *Sight*

UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Males and females see the world differently.



We have two visual systems:
One system is devoted to speed and movement. The other system is devoted to color, detail, and texture.

Boys have more resources in speed and movement – they are **WHERE** oriented.

Girls have more resources in color, detail, and texture – they are **WHAT** oriented.

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Different Areas of Focus

UNDERSTANDING GENDER



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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

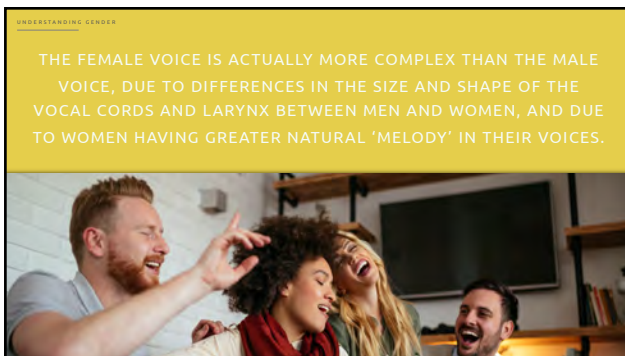
How Sight Impacts the Classroom



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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Express Yourself

Boys
When boys feel something intensely, they may talk less and may even want to be alone.

Girls
When a girl feels something intensely, she may want to talk about it and share with others.




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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

In the Classroom

Boys
Can be disadvantaged in kindergarten due to a lack of fine motor skills to read and write.

Girls
For girls, the harm could come through middle and high school because their confidence starts to shift.



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UNDERSTANDING GENDER


Non-Verbal

Girls and Women

- Condense their bodies
- Tuck in elbows
- Cross legs
- Physically take up less space

Boys and Men


- Expand body when speaking
- Take up more physical space
- Have a relaxed body posture



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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Stereotypes
Communication
with Students



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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Applying What You've Learned
Discussion Question
"From what I have learned, how can I connect nature and nurture to better educate each student in my classroom at home, school, university, online, and/or beyond?"



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UNDERSTANDING GENDER

Changing Our Approach

The value in understanding gender differences is so we can teach to advantage boys and girls, teens, and adult learners. We can see the value in these differences and create positive learning environments.



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