
Playgrounds & Prejudice

**A 2012 National Report on
Anti-LGBT Bias in
Elementary Schools**

The report considers school climate, biased remarks, bullying, and attitudes about gender expression and family diversity



Based on national surveys of

- 1,065 students in third to sixth grade**
- 1,099 teachers of kindergarten to sixth grade**

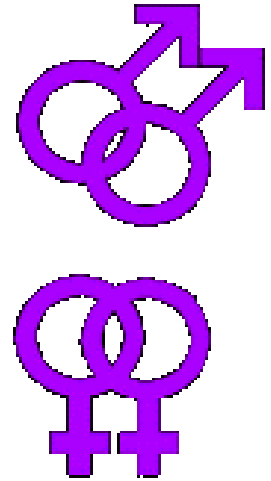
Do We Represent Diverse Families in Schools?

- Seven in ten (72%) students report that they have been taught about many different kinds of families. But less than two in ten (18%) students have learned about families with lesbian, gay, or bisexual parents.
- Teachers report representing different types of families. However, less than a quarter of teachers provide representations of lesbian, gay or bisexual parents (21%) or transgender parents (8%).



Anti-Lesbian and Gay Language Was Heard Regularly

- 49% of teachers and 45% of students hear “that’s so gay” or “gay” being used as an insult sometimes, often, or very often
- 26% of teachers and 26% of students hear “fag” and “lesbo” sometimes, often, or very often



The Experiences of Gender Nonconforming Kids

- One in ten students in third to sixth grade indicate that they do not conform to traditional gender roles and norms.
- Gender nonconforming students are less likely to feel safe in school (42% vs. 61%) and more often indicate that they do not want to go to school because they feel unsafe or afraid (35% vs. 15%) than other students.
- Gender nonconforming students are also more likely to become the target of bullying and name calling (56% vs. 33%).



Are Teachers Prepared?

- The majority of elementary school teachers believe that they are obligated to ensure the safety and security of gender nonconforming students (83%) and students with LGBT parents (70%) in their classes.
- A majority of teachers (85%) have received professional development on diversity or multicultural issues. However, much fewer have received professional development on gender issues (37%), or on families with LGBT parents (23%).



BULLYING

STOPS

HERE

So How Can YOU Help?

- Remove “hate” words from your vocabulary
- Encourage younger family members to do likewise
- Use appropriate terminology for LGBT people
- Validate people’s gender expression/identity by using the name and pronouns they desire
- Do not assume someone’s gender or sexual identity
- Do not make assumptions about someone based on their gender or sexual identity

So How Can YOU Help?

- Speak out against anti-LGBT prejudice
- Educate yourself on the experiences and concerns of LGBT people
- Know local resources
- Talk with peers about these issues



Find Out More Information:



- Read the report:

www.glsen.org/playgroundsandprejudice.html

OR

- Visit the Stonewall Center:
Crampton Hall, in Southwest
www.umass.edu/stonewall





SAFE ZONE



I am an Ally.

This is a safe zone. I am understanding,
non-judgemental, and willing to provide an
atmosphere of acceptance and
assistance for members of the
LGBT Community.