

A social gender transition

Social gender transition refers to a change in some, or all, of the following: name, dress, gender pronoun, expression and, at times, legal documents (Ehrensaft, 2016; Pyne, 2014).

Rafe was assigned male at birth and is now Rina, using the pronouns 'she' and 'her'. She is fascinated with traditional expressions of femininity and enjoys wearing long wigs, princess clothes, sparkly shoes and carrying a purse.

The RECE is perplexed because she has been working hard to break down traditional gender stereotypes and encouraging children to see gender in a *neutral* way. Through discussions with the educator team, Rina's family explains they support her stereotypical expressions of femininity because it enhances her mental well-being and generates a positive sense of identity for Rina.

The early-learning team engaged in critical reflection at a planning meeting and discussed some of their own experiences with gender and gender expression, sharing some of their individual beliefs about how gender should be expressed.

The RECEs critically reflected on their ideas to create gender neutral or genderless spaces. They realized that it would be important to create spaces that were balanced, where children could express gender in ways that were meaningful to them.

Consider this resource, available in multiple languages, to help you better understand gender and ways to explain it to others: [The Gender Unicorn](#).

You can add your thoughts and reflections in the space below.