

3rd newsletter. MINT Project



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Getting out of the gender trap: More variety in the nursery offers children better opportunities for the future

Traditional gender stereotypes are still very much in place: boys are smarter and being a policeman is mainly a man's job.

These assertions, for example, were accepted by 70% and 60% respectively. In a study conducted by the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) in collaboration with the Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Hospital 12 de Octubre de Madrid and the Francisco de Vitoria University in 2020, 60% of children aged 4-9 agreed with these statements (<file:///vmsrv001/pers/schine/Download/noticia-con-formato-nin%CC%83os-estereotipos-final.pdf>).

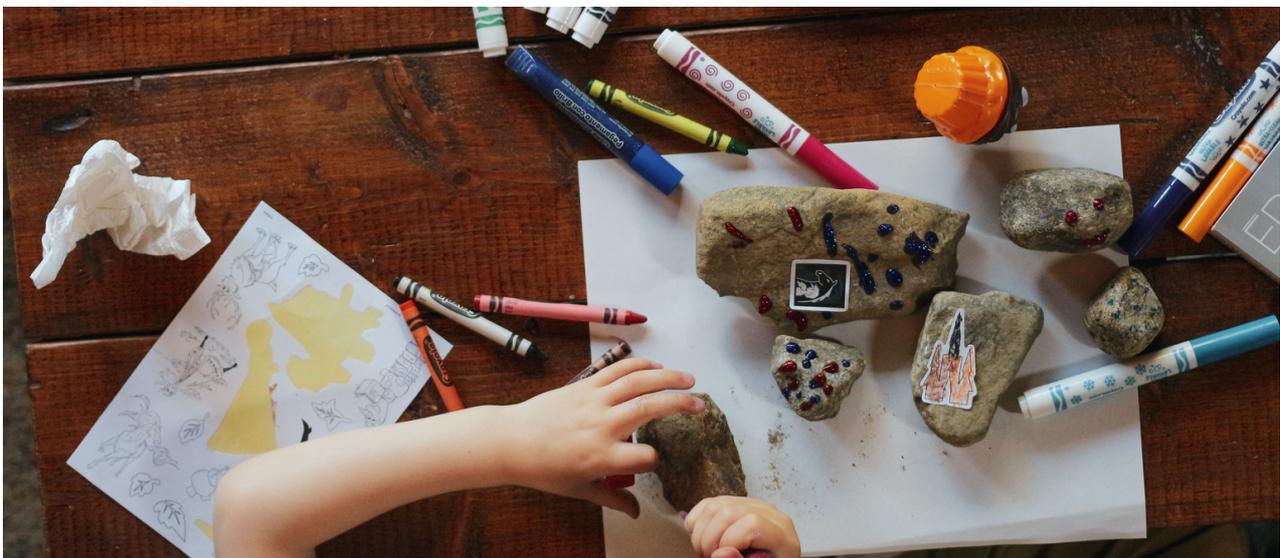
Our small survey with Nuremberg adolescents aged 14-16 also showed that the vast majority of girls played mainly with "typically feminine" toys, such as dolls, and that, at the same time, only a small group of boys had regular contact with them in childhood. Parents and educators can take small steps to expand children's world of play, break down traditional gender stereotypes and promote children's competencies. Here are some tips:

Open up and expand play spaces for children

You can incorporate a stop at a coffee shop or even grocery shopping into car play. With woodworking, you can creatively decorate the resulting objects. This makes both activities more exciting for girls and boys. Play "rougher" games more often with the girls and do more crafts with the boys.

Be sensitive to children's clothing

Girls and boys should learn that clothing has an aesthetic component as well as a practical function. Here, too, stereotypes of gender-specific colours, garments and ornaments should be avoided. Allow children to freely choose clothing as early as possible. Remember and let your children feel it: boys can also look nice and girls are still girls even if they don't want to wear skirts and dresses.



Be sensible with media choices

Women cook, men repair: many old books and movies convey these images. Make sure that the media you offer your children convey modern behaviour.

Set a good example

"I don't believe in what you say, I believe in what you do": don't just talk about it, model modern behaviours for your children. Cooking with dad, doing crafts with a male figure, going to wash the car with mom, and playing soccer with a female figure: all this is sure to please all children.

In the next newsletter, you will learn why a modern gender-sensitive education can protect girls from poverty in old age.

This information has been developed within the framework of the GeSTAW project, carried out by the association erfolgsfaktor FRAU with the support of the ERASMUS+ Programme. GeSTAW stands for "Dismantling gender stereotypes in young women's career choices in a digital working world". More information about the project and its results is available at <https://erfolgsfaktor-frau.de/engagement/mint/>