



KEY TERMS

Sex

- Reproductive anatomy (external and internal genitalia (e.g., penis, vagina, gonads, reproductive tracts, etc.)
- Determines birth-assigned male or female gender (i.e., “natal gender”)

Gender Identity

- A person's internal, deeply-felt sense of being male, female, something other, or in between. (most children have a strong sense between ages 4-6)

Gender Expression

- An individual's characteristics and behaviors such as appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech patterns, and social interactions that are perceived as masculine or feminine. (begins around ages 2-3)

Gender Nonconformity

- Gender expressions that fall outside of societal expectations for one's sex assigned at birth
- May (or may not) impact gender identity:
 - Natal male: “I am a girl and I like to express femininity.”
 - Natal male: “I am a boy and I like to express femininity.”

Sexual Orientation

- The gender to which one is romantically and/or sexually attracted

Transgender or Trans

- Individuals with an affirmed gender identity different than their biological sex (birth-assigned gender)
- Transgender can be used as an umbrella term that encompasses diversity of gender identities and expressions
- Applies to identity, appearance, and behavior→Not necessarily body parts

Gender Role

- This is the set of roles, activities, expectations and behaviors assigned to females and males by society

Cisgender (cis- - “on this side of”)

- Term used to describe people whose gender identity is congruent with biological sex



Gender fluid/expansive/creative

- Conveys a wider, more flexible range of gender expression, with a range of interests and behaviors. Expanding beyond traditional gender stereotypes. It reinforces the notion that gender is not binary, but a continuum; and that many children and adults express their gender in multiple ways.

Affirming

- The word 'affirm' is used to acknowledge the identity of an individual.
- For example: They are not changing their gender, rather, we are changing our perceptions based upon what the individual has expressed to us.