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Gender Diversity and Sexual Identity

Gender Glossary

TRANS is an all-inclusive, umbrella term which describes all gender-creative people (including transgender people) whose gender identities do not traditionally match with the sex they were assigned at birth.

CISGENDER denotes or relates to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with the sex they were assigned at birth.

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH is the determination of a person's sex based on the visual appearance of the genitals at birth. AMAB (assigned male at birth) or AFAB (assigned female at birth) are commonly used as labels. AMAB is a more contemporary and accurate synonym for 'biological male' or 'natal male.' AFAB is a more contemporary and accurate synonym for 'biological female' or 'natal female.'

CROSS-GENDER IDENTIFYING children tend to consistently, persistently, and insistentlly identify as the opposite sex from an early age. They see gender in very binary terms and feel distress, or gender dysphoria, at having been born into the wrong body. They are likely to desire medical intervention.

FEMALE-TO-MALE/TRANSMASCULINE/TRANSGENDER BOY/MAN describes the direction of a shift in gender identity for a person assigned female at birth (AFAB) but moving away from a female gender identity.

MALE-TO-FEMALE/TRANSFEMININE/TRANSGENDER GIRL/WOMAN describes the direction of a shift in gender identity for a person assigned male at birth (AMAB) but moving away from a male gender identity.

NON-BINARY/GENDERQUEER/GENDER FLUID/AGENDER youth identify as neither male nor female, in both gender expression and gender identity. This rapidly growing population rejects the gender binary, instead viewing gender identity as a spectrum.

GENDER-EXPLORING: Based on what we know about child psychology, every child goes through a process of developing a gender identity (we just tend not to notice the cisgender child's process). Some children and teens go through a more conscious process of questioning or exploring what feels right for them in terms of gender identity.