

Sacred Grove Academy

A Pagan Cover School Ministry of Sacred Grove Church

Summer 2019

Sacred Grove Academy
P.O. Box 505
Auburn, AL 36831-0505

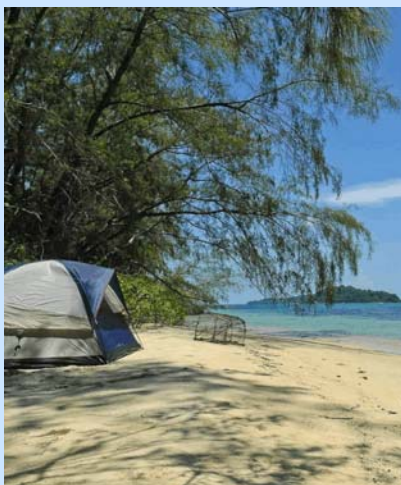
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Sacred Grove Academy is a church school operated under legal code 16-28-1, 16-28-3, 16-28-7, and 16-46-3 (church school law) of the State of Alabama



A Guide for Parents on How to Explain Transgender to a Child

From:

<https://sexedrescue.com/how-to-explain-transgender-to-a-child/>

If you're a parent, you might be wondering about how to explain transgender to a child. Transgender is a very topical contentious topic today. You will hear about it in the news, see it on the front cover of magazines, read about it on social media, hear about it on the radio and there may possibly even be a transgender child in your local school. So it is inevitable that your child will eventually hear the term being used or know a child who is now identifying as a different gender. And hopefully, they will come to you with their questions.

You'll find more information about sex education in my Sex Education 101 page:

<https://sexedrescue.com/sex-education-101/>.

This article is written for parents who want their child to be tolerant and accepting of differences in others (regardless of what your personal beliefs are). The emphasis is on growing up children who do not bully or discriminate against people who are different, including trans-gender people. Regardless of your personal beliefs, it is against the law to discriminate against people because of their sex, gender or sexual identity, and children need to know this. So the emphasis in this article is on talking to kids about transgenderism as diversity, i.e., it is just another way that

people can be different. Oh, and I am keeping it super simple because sometimes we over-complicate things!

The meanings of these words

So what exactly are we talking about, when we are looking at how to explain transgender to a child? It helps to understand the topic before even thinking about trying to explain it to kids! We will start off by looking at gender and sex before we talk about transgender.

Gender and sex

So what is the difference between gender and sex? Are they the same thing or entirely different?

Sex and gender are two different things.

Sex is biological and is assigned when a child is born. So your sex is either male, female or indeterminate /intersex (neither male or female). The characteristics that help us to determine our sex are hormonal, chromosomal or anatomical (which can be internal as well as external) variations (or differences). Intersex is when a person's sex characteristics are not what we usually expect for a typical male or a typical female. Sometimes we discover this when they are born, but sometimes it might not be until later on.

Gender is what we identify as, boy/man or girl/woman, and is not assigned at birth. Gender is more

Continued on page 7

If You Move:

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a different public school district, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, **immediately** (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.



Attendance Forms Due by August 1

Attendance forms for 2018-2019 are due now, and must be received by August 1. Your completed attendance forms are essential to fulfilling the letter of the law, and without them, you will not be able to re-enroll for the following year, even if you have sent your tuition fees.

EASY! Submit your attendance through our website! <www.sacredgroveacademy.org/forms/Attendance/form.html>

You can also email your attendance forms; either by scanning and emailing your handwritten copies, or by emailing your Word or Excel document.

Re-Enrollment Deadline: August 1

The deadline for sending in your attendance forms and for re-enrolling is AUGUST 1. All enrollments will officially end on July 1; however, you can re-enroll for the 2019-2020 school year beginning anytime after June 1. The tuition is \$75 for the first child, and \$25 for each additional child. In order to re-enroll, you must send the tuition fees and your previous years' attendance forms. You do not have to fill out a new Enrollment Form, unless you have recently moved.

If You Miss the August 1 Deadline:

If you have not re-enrolled by August 1 and have not contacted us to let us know you will be late, you'll be considered withdrawn, and we will send the obligatory letter to the school board stating such. You can re-enroll after that time, but you will need to pay the \$25 admission fee per child in addition to the tuition fees, and fill out both the Enrollment Form (CSEF) and the Admission Form again.

Late Re-Enrollments With Notice:

If you contact us PRIOR TO AUGUST 1 to tell us you will be late: You will have a grace period of 30 days, until August 31, to send in your re-enrollment tuition for the upcoming school year. There will be a late fee of \$25 per family, which must be paid, in addition to the tuition fees, before you will be considered to be re-enrolled. Please note that if your late re-enrollment is not received by August 31, we will begin un-enrollment procedures.

How to Pay for Your Re-Enrollment:

We accept re-enrollment tuition payments either via check or money order sent regular mail, or over the web using PayPal. You can use this free service to pay for your renewal each summer.

The link to pay via PayPal is <www.sacredgroveacademy.org/Paypal.html>.

Transcripts Policy

You may prepare your own transcript using the blank forms provided on our website. However, if you'd like Sacred Grove Academy to prepare an official transcript for you, with the director's signature, there is a \$25 transcript fee. You will need to fill out the Transcript Request Form (available on our website), and send it in with your check or money order (or pay via PayPal). If you'd like the records faxed, there is a \$5 fax fee, and there is also a \$15 rush fee for faster than two-week service (fax fee is extra).

The parent/teacher must supply the subjects and grades for the student, using the Transcript Request Form. Sacred Grove does not know what your child studied nor what his/her grades were. Parents must turn in attendance forms BEFORE an official transcript will be made. If the student has not turned in an attendance form, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts will not be made for non-graduating students withdrawing before the end of the school year. If a student withdraws during the school year to transfer to another school, parents will need to negotiate admission to another school on that school's terms, without a transcript from Sacred Grove Academy. Official transcripts will not be made for partial years of less than three months. For any partial year of the student's enrollment, we will send a letter stating no work can be verified. Official transcripts can only be made for the period of time your child was enrolled with Sacred Grove. We can not create transcripts for any school years, full or partial, prior to or after your child's enrollment in Sacred Grove. All fees must be paid before a transcript is sent to the parent, school, or college. All transcripts will be mailed, unless a fax is requested and the extra fee (\$5) paid.

Withdrawal Policies:

All enrollments end on July 1. If you do not re-enroll by August 1, you will be considered withdrawn, but may re-enroll at any point in the future, as long as all other policies have been adhered to. After August 1, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy (as required by state law).

You can also officially withdraw from Sacred Grove at any time during the school year. ****No refunds will be given at any time.**** Families withdraw for various reasons, including sending their children back to public school, or moving out-of-state. To officially withdraw during the school year, just send a notice to Sacred Grove by mail or by email, stating that you are withdrawing. An official letter to your local school superintendent will then be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy.

Removals & Improper Withdrawals:

NOTE: After **any** official or improper withdrawal or removal, an official letter to your local school superintendent will be sent stating that you are no longer enrolled in Sacred Grove Academy, and we will send a letter to your last known address stating the same. If you are not enrolled anywhere else, you will be subject to truancy laws.

You will be removed from enrollment with Sacred Grove if:

- You do not send your child's previous years' attendance forms in by August 1;
- If you write a worthless check, and restitution is not made within 30 days (civil charges may apply); or if any other fees are in arrears and are not paid within 30 days.

In the above cases, until your fees or forms are mailed in to us, no records or information will be

released about your child to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested about that child. Furthermore, if attendance forms are not received within 12 months of your withdrawal (for example, 2018-2019 forms sent in by August 1, 2020), all of the above will apply, and no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll in Sacred Grove Academy at any point in the future for any reason.

You will be considered to be improperly withdrawn if:

- If your summer or winter newsletter is returned undeliverable because you have moved and not sent in a change of address, and we cannot then get in touch with you by phone or email; as we will have no way of knowing whether you are still in your original school district or even in the state (Note: if your newsletter comes back, we make a reasonable attempt to contact you before removing you from the rolls);
- We discover that you have enrolled your child in a different school when that school sends us a request for your child's records, and you have not officially withdrawn (NOTE: We will NOT send any information without receiving an official withdrawal from you!)

In the above cases, no one in your family will be allowed to enroll or re-enroll at any point in the future for any reason, and no records or information will be released to you or to subsequent schools that may request such, nor will we provide diplomas, transcripts, letters giving date of withdrawal for purposes of GED, driver's license, or other reason, or any other information requested, AT ALL for that child.

17 Fabulously Fun Summer Activities for Homeschool Families

By Sarita

From: Sarita's Word, Summer Learning, June 16, 2017
<https://blog.sonlight.com/summer-activities-homeschool.html>

Welcome to summer! Whether you homeschool year-round or take a break in the summer, these next months can be rich times of getting outdoors, building family memories, and letting your children explore what interests them.

If you'd like some inspiration for intentional ways to make memories and expand your children's horizons, try a few of these fabulously fun summer activities.

1. Let Your Kids Get Bored

First and foremost let's remember that it is OK for kids to be bored this summer. It can even be good for them. Check out this article and scroll down for a motivating video about letting your kids pass through the stages of boredom that lead to creative breakthrough and reflective self-knowledge. (You could also check your library for Peter Spier's funny and inspiring picture book called Bored, Nothing to Do.)

Now for the actual activity ideas...

2. Go to the Farmer's Market

Head to your local market to explore the produce and talk to the farmers. Pick something new and prepare it with your children. Or give each child a few dollars to browse and buy whatever they want to share with the family.

3. Live Up the Picnic Season

Pack up some peanut butter and jelly, grab a blanket, and head to

your backyard or a park. Add something unexpected to your bag, such as a Frisbee or sketchpads and pencils.

4. Head to a Summer Festival

Many towns have a special festival at least once a summer. Look up your options and put something on the calendar now so you remember to go if you want to.

5. Read, and Read Some More

Whatever you do, please read this summer! Read out loud to your children, keep the house stocked with good books for them to read on their own, and let them see you enjoying your own books. Of course, our Summer Reader packages are a great place to start.

6. Experiment with Science

Whether you missed some of the scheduled science experiments this past school year, or you want to find new ones to tackle, you might take advantage of your relaxed schedule to attempt a few experiments. Summer is the perfect time to take the mess outside so you avoid the worries of spills and disasters in your kitchen.

7. Get Out the Art

If you didn't have time for much art this year, or if your children really love it, you might want to bless them with the opportunity to create. Provide some supplies, a vision, and be willing to let the kids make a bit of a mess. Check out ARTistic Pursuits or our other art materials for inspiration.

8. Find a Family-friendly Outdoor Concert or Play

From Shakespeare to a string quartet to your favorite bluegrass group, pack up dinner and make a night out of it.

9. Help Your Kids Build a Fort

Choose a locale in your yard, down by the creek, or anywhere that feels special and exciting. As you know, kids even love a simple blanket fort inside. (Stock it with books and a flashlight if you want!)

10. Get Ideas from Your Kids

Ask your children what they want to learn how to do this summer. Even if they answer with something outrageous, you still might let them give it a try and see where it takes them.

11. Tackle Home Improvement

Let your children help in the planning, budgeting, shopping and the actual work. It will probably take longer than if you did it yourself, but it will certainly be a learning opportunity for everyone. Your kids will feel so proud of the finished product.

12. Tour a Local Farm

Many farms are happy to have visitors—especially eager, “love to learn” visitors. Look online to see what your local farms have to offer by way of tours and visiting hours. Some even let you come and volunteer for a while! If you visit a farm now and in September, you'll be amazed at the difference from the beginning to end of a growing season.

13. Go Camping

It's the ultimate family-bonding, nature-appreciating, funny-story-

generating adventure. We camped often when the kids were young. I wouldn't trade those memories for anything!

14. Look for Wildflowers

Do you have particularly good wildflowers anywhere around? Take a camera or some sketchbooks and go explore.

15. Make Homemade Ice Cream

What child wouldn't be excited for the chance to make and eat real ice cream? Even without an ice-cream maker, you can definitely make it at home.

16. Suggest a Lemonade Stand

Inspire the entrepreneurial spirit in your children. If you want to add some real-life math and money lessons, have your child-ren calculate the cost of all the ingredients they use for lemonade and cookies. Then have them pay you back from their earnings and calculate their true profit.

17. Marvel at the Stars

Look online to see if any meteor showers will be visible soon. Or just pick a clear night to go lay out under the stars somewhere away from city lights. You can be sure your kids will remember that special night for years to come.

Again, please don't feel pressure to do more than you want to here. If you just need to relax, organize your house, and send the kids outside, that can be great too. But I also know from experience that if you do want to do some special activities this summer, it can really help to make some simple plans or write your ideas down now.

I hope you enjoy the next few weeks of summer with your family!

5 Things You Need to Know About Homeschooling Teens

By Rebecca Spooner

From:

<https://homeschoolon.com/5-things-you-need-to-know-about-homeschooling-teens/>

As a teenager, the whole world is opening up to you, there are so many new experiences and the last thing you want to do is school! How do you motivate your child, be there for them and yet trust them and give them some freedom, and keep them from falling away? As I am still in the elementary school years, I reached out to my mom, a veteran homeschooler who has successfully homeschooled all 5 of her kids! Check out this list of the 5 main things you need to know to get through the home stretch of homeschooling teens!

1. Choose strong curriculum

Most parents worry about homeschooling their students through middle and high school because they aren't confident they can teach the higher grades. This is a valid concern but there are many options for you if you are in this boat.

Online School: Many schools offer online courses or classes to make sure your child is being taught from a knowledgeable source. Check out this online school option if you want more info: homeschoolon.com/acellus/.

Co-ops: We did a number of co-ops for grade 10-12 (even when we were much younger than that). If you are connected with a homeschool group, ask around if anyone has a degree in anything or has skills they can pass on. We had one of the homeschool moms with her Bachelor of Science teach

a bunch of us high school science and it was fantastic!

Choose Strong Curriculum: If you are weak in LA or math, make sure you choose a strong curriculum that will help compensate and build your confidence. Take a look at the Master Homeschool List (homeschoolon.com/master-home-school-curriculum-list/) or take the free Curriculum Course (homeschoolon.com/free-curriculum-course/) to find some great suggestions for your family.

2. Master the fine art of letting go

Although most teenagers want space and independence, to break away from mom and dad... it is a fine art. You want to let go of the reins a bit, give them some space and freedom and most of all, your trust. But you also want to be there for them, unobtrusive, a listening ear, a helping hand as they step out into adulthood.

How do you do this? **Get involved!** Get involved in their youth group, go skiing with them, take them out shopping or to movies. Find out what they enjoy and meet them where they are at!

Have their friends over! This is a big one but not always easy. At times you may just want your house to yourself, feel like you are getting eaten out of house and home, but it is so worth it! It is the best way to stay involved, know your kids' friends, stay in the loop and keep the lines of communication open.

3. Help them stay motivated

Easier said than done, but there are a few techniques to help you along the way. You are transition-

ing from doing everything with and for your child to giving them the tools to do it themselves. Being able to set realistic goals and follow through with them is a skill that will serve them so well through college and adulthood!

The key is to sit down with them at the beginning of the week, help them figure out what they need to do and fill in a planner for them (definitely worth investing in a planner or join the Planner Circle here!

homeschoolon.com/planner-circle Then figure out if those goals are realistic with all the other activities you have happening and what they want to fit in that week and come up with some natural consequences if they don't finish that work.

Don't sweat the day-to-day accomplishments, this is where some of that trust comes in to play. Give them the space to figure it out and discover the consequences if they leave it until the last minute or don't get it done at all. Sit down at the end of the week to see if the goals were met, and if not the consequence can come into play (no weekend activity, take away the phone or TV time, etc.).

4. Buy or borrow these three books:

Cure For the Common Life
by Max Lucado

Have a New Teenager by Friday: From Mouthy and Moody to Respectful and Responsible in 5 Days

by Dr. Kevin Leman
Raising a Modern-Day Knight: A Father's Role in Guiding His Son to Authentic Manhood
by Robert Lewis

These are amazing books and a resource you will turn to over and over. If you have a Kindle or iPad, you can get them on your reader as ebooks as well.

5. Keep them busy!

"Idle hands are the devils workshop"

My brother worked almost full time through most of his high school and school took a backseat. He needed to be busy not sitting at a desk! In a few years he was ready to just get what he needed to get done, done and finished grade 11 and 12 in one year. Sometimes, especially with boys, they just need to work!

If working isn't an option for your family or just too much of a stretch, look into some extracurricular activities, youth group events, volunteer work, etc. to keep them busy. Volunteering and giving back boosts their self confidence and helps to take the focus off them and onto someone else. They have something to offer, they are of worth and value to others!

Run the Good Race!

If you are walking this path, homeschooling a teen... be encouraged! I was homeschooled, I made it through! I wouldn't trade it for the world and I think it helped prepare me for life after school in a way that the bubble of public school never could. I am so close with my family, I had confidence not just in dealing and communicating with my peers, but with any age range. I was stable in my faith and my values and I knew what I wanted (even when I didn't). You can do this and the reward will be great!

If you have tips and tricks or thoughts for the journey, I'd love to hear about them!

*Thanks to my mom, a homeschool superstar, for homeschooling me and my 5 siblings. For putting up with me, even as a teenager, for believing in me, and for letting me pick her brain for this post!

REMINDERS

Please do not mail any school work to our office! Also, please do not have your former school(s) mail any previous school records to us. We do not need any of these items. You, the parent, are the teacher, and as such, are fully responsible for grading, and keeping and maintaining school work and records.

What We Do NOT Provide:

- Curriculum (books, etc.)
- Teachers to come to your home
- Teachers at our office to check work or give grades
- An accredited school or program (no church cover school in Alabama is accredited)

Join our Sacred Grove Facebook group!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/190035067717206/>



Transgender, continued from page 1

about how we feel in our head and heart, i.e., on the inside.

It is easy to get confused over the meaning of these terms. Sex and gender are words that are often used interchangeably in our everyday language, but they are actually different and they don't always match.

Transgender

Now that we understand what gender and sex are, we can now look at how to explain transgender to a child.

Today, though, we now know that gender does not always match up with our genitals.

You may have the genitals of a male, and be called a boy, but not feel like a boy on the inside. You may have the genitals of a female, and be called a girl, but not feel like a girl on the inside. We call this transgender.

A transgirl is when you may be biologically born a male but identify as a girl (transitioning to a girl). A transboy is when you may be biologically born a female but identify as a boy (transitioning to a boy). There

are lots of reasons as to why this can happen and we still don't really understand why.

In order to express their chosen gender, transgender people may transition, or change, from the gender they were given at birth. They may change their names, pronouns or style of dress. Some transgender people also choose a medical transition, with the help of medical specialists, who will prescribe hormones and/or surgery.

Some people don't feel like a boy or a girl on the inside. We call this agender. This is where they just don't connect to either gender.

Some people have a 'fluid' gender that can change some or many times over a person's life. We could call them gender variant or gender non-conforming, as they don't conform to any gender and may have gender behaviours and interests that don't typically align

with a specific gender. They may enjoy being a boy one day and a girl the next.

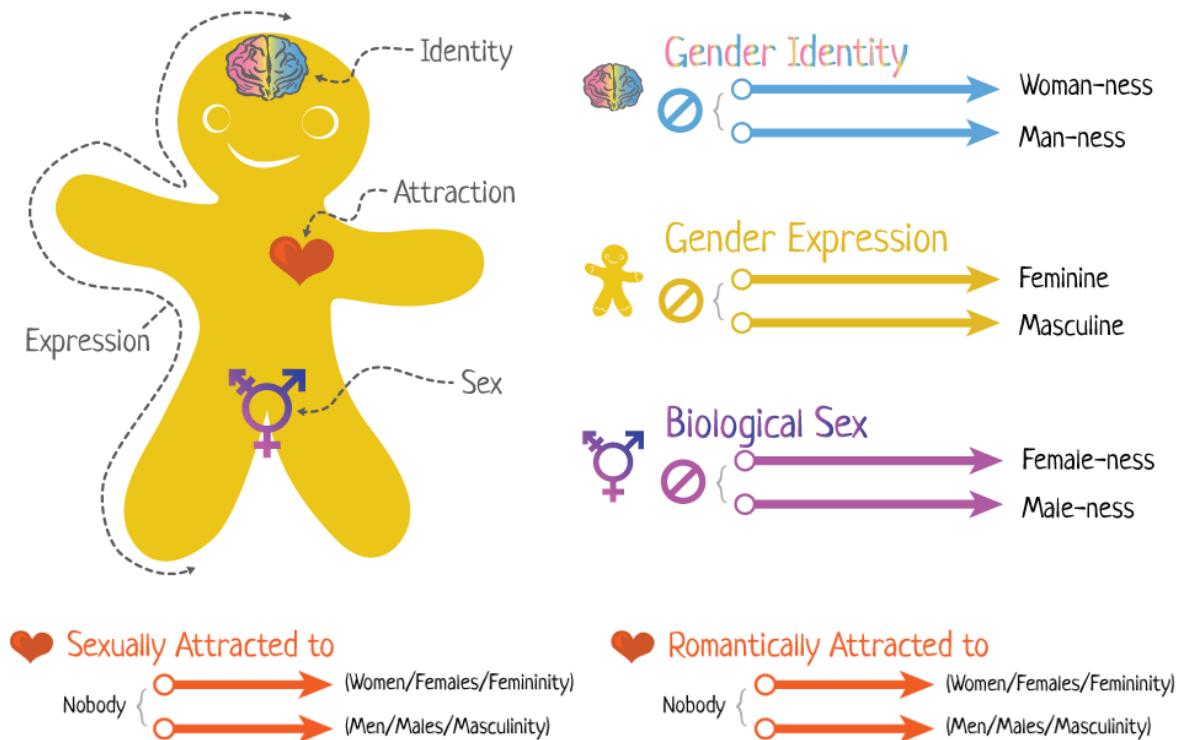
Note: Terms keep on changing in this field and what was acceptable terminology may now be deemed 'politically incorrect'. So you may hear different terms being used elsewhere.

The genderbread person by Sam Killermann below, is a useful diagram that helps to explain gender.

When is the best time to explain transgender to a child

The best time to look at how to explain transgender to a child is when they are young. The reason for this is because young children are still developing their own gender. Which means they are not rigid in regards to how they define gender roles. You can read more about gender identity development in children here.

The Genderbread Person v3.2 by its pronounced METROsexual.com



So why do kids need to know about this?

Your child may notice that some children don't conform to their assigned gender or sex. For example, they may notice that Fred likes to play with dolls or that Mary likes to kick a ball with the boys. Or they may tell you that Fred is now called Frances and wears a dress.

Or they may be curious because they have heard about transgenderism.

- The chances of your child coming across gender diversity at school or within the community is very possible.
- Children need to be inclusive and not discriminate against people who are different.
- Children who easily accept differences in others, will be more accepting of their own differences. Which means they will have higher self esteem and better body image.

What to say to children

So what are some things that can help with how to explain transgender to a child? The trick is to keep it simple.

If they ask you a question, try something different before responding with an answer. Try asking them what they think, which allows you to find out what they already know and what exactly it is, that they are asking you about.

You could also ask them why they are asking, or where they heard the word.

Remember to talk about transgender in an everyday way, i.e., in the exact same way you might answer all their other questions. You will be having many conversations during their childhood, so don't feel as if you have to tell them everything at

once.

Avoid gender-biased statements, like—'Only girls play with dolls' or 'Only boys can have short hair'.

Buy gender neutral toys and toys that aren't too pink or blue. And if you have boys, make sure that you have toys that are stereotypical for girls, like a doll, a tea set, a pram. And that girls have trucks, cars, and other stereotyped boy toys.

Buy gender-neutral clothing and allow your child to dress how they want. So if your little boy wants to wear a bright pink tutu for the day, let him. Or if your daughter wants to cut her hair short, let her!

Read books that show adults working in non-stereotypical and diverse gender roles. You can also point out different professions and discuss the gender roles with your child. For example, when you see the mail person on your street, point out to your child that the person delivering the mail today is a woman, and that when you were a child, that it was only ever men that did that job. Talk about why this has changed and what it means.

Try to use gender-neutral language (as your children are listening). If you need to buy a gift for a new baby, buy a gender-neutral gift. When you see a mum at school with the new baby, don't ask if it's a boy or a girl, try asking what the baby's name is instead. Try to use fewer pronouns by using 'they, them or their' instead of 'her and him'. If pronouns confuse you, check out the Pronoun app by Minus 18: <https://www.minus18.org.au/pronouns-app/>.

There are many small things that we can do to ensure that our children do not grow up with rigid views about gender. Pick one small change and focus on that. And when that new behaviour has

become automatic, then start focusing on making another change. This way you won't become overwhelmed!

Resources for your children

There are some fantastic videos and books that will help with explaining transgender to your child.

There are also quite a few books that have been written about transgender and diversity. This list from an aussie librarian is the most extensive list that I have found:

<http://booksforkidsingayfamilies.blogspot.com/>.

These are some of my favourite books on how to explain transgender to a child:

<https://sexedrescue.com/the-best-childrens-books-on-transgender/>.

References

- Children's Sexual Development and Behaviour: Pants Aren't Rude by Pam Linke 2015
- From Diapers to Dating: A Parent's Guide to Raising Sexually Healthy Children by Debra Hafner 2000
- Handbook of Child and Adolescent Sexuality: Developmental and Forensic Psychology edited by Bromberg & O'Donohue 2013
- Understanding Your Child's Sexual behaviour: What's Natural and Healthy by Toni Cavanagh Johnson 1999
- Where Do I Start? Supporting Healthy Sexual Development in Early Childhood by Family Planning QLD 2009
- Gender identity development in children by healthychildren.org Accessed 08/02/2018
- My Ted talk: Understanding the complexities of gender by Sam Killerman. Accessed 08/02/2018

Attendance Record

Student's Name: _____

Grade Just Completed: _____ School Year: _____ - _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Do you check this email regularly? _____

Current Address: _____

Have you moved? _____ If yes, are you in a new school district? _____ (If yes, you will need to submit a new Church School Enrollment Form ASAP, so we can send it to the school superintendent in your new area)

Do you intend to re-enroll for the upcoming school year? _____

	Month Total	Year Total
July	_____	_____
August	_____	_____
September	_____	_____
October	_____	_____
November	_____	_____
December	_____	_____
January	_____	_____
February	_____	_____
March	_____	_____
April	_____	_____
May	_____	_____
June	_____	_____

Have You Moved? If so, have you notified us?

If you move to a new residence within the state of Alabama, and you move into a *different public school district*, you **MUST** send in a new Enrollment Form for the new school district, *immediately* (don't wait for re-enrollment time!). You do not have to inform the previous school district that you have moved, but you do need to let the new one know that you are enrolled in a church school; otherwise you will be subject to truancy laws.

Sacred Grove Academy
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Website:
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

