

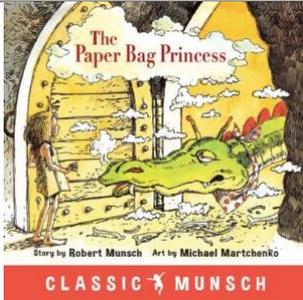
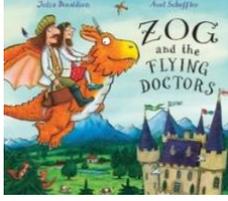
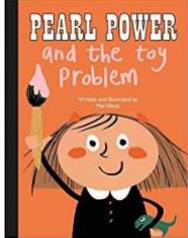
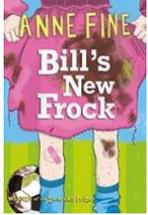
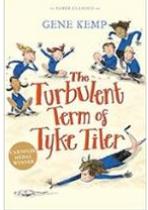
Challenging gender stereotyping with children

Books, videos and other suggestions for families and schools

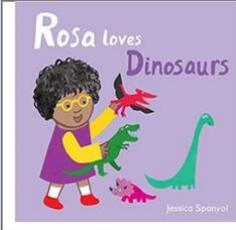
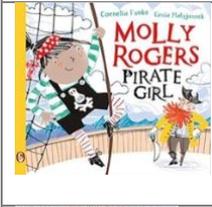
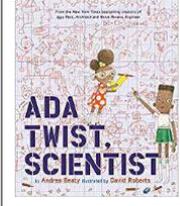
Books

Grouped loosely by theme and with suggested age guide

Theme – Directly challenging stereotypes

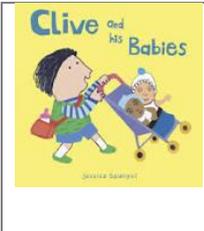
 <p>Story by Robert Munsch Art by Michael Martchenko CLASSIC MUNSCH</p>	<p><i>Paper Bag Princess</i> by Robert Munsch – age guide 3+</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Does a hero have to fight to defeat an enemy? How are the characters different from princes and princesses in other stories you have read?</p>	<p>Elizabeth is a princess who uses her wits to rescue Prince Ronald from the dragon. Ronald is not impressed when Elizabeth turns up wearing a paper bag – not looking like a ‘proper princess’</p>
	<p><i>Zog and the Flying Doctors</i> by Julia Donaldson – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Pearl is a princess and a doctor, but her uncle the King thinks that Pearl should act more like a ‘proper princess’</p>
	<p><i>Pearl Power and the Toy Problem</i> by Mel Elliott – age guide 4+</p>	<p>In this rhyming picture book, Pearl shows us that there is no such thing as ‘girl toys’ and ‘boy toys’, and she writes letters to the advertising industry and the ‘TV Boss’ to tell them so</p>
	<p><i>Bill's New Frock</i> by Anne Fine – age guide 7+</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> What makes Bill ‘a girl’? How is Bill treated differently as ‘a girl’? Does wearing the dress change how Bill behaves?</p>	<p>Bill wakes up one day to find that he’s a girl and – worse! – his parents send him to school in a pink frilly dress.</p>
	<p><i>Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler</i> by Gene Kemp – age guide 8+</p>	<p>Tyke and best friend Danny have a tendency to get into trouble...</p>

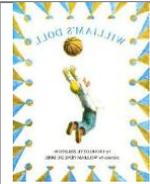
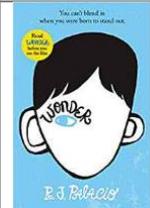
Theme – Strong female leads

	<p><i>Rosa Love Dinosaurs</i> by Jessica Spanyol – age guide 2+</p>	<p>Rosa likes playing with dinosaurs.... Part of a series, <i>All About Rosa</i>, which celebrates inclusivity and promotes gender equality</p>
	<p><i>Molly Rogers, Pirate Girl</i> by Cornelia Funke, illustrated by Kerstin Meyer – age guide 4+</p>	<p>Molly, pirate daughter of Barbarous Bertha, is captured by Captain Firebeard when she sails off on her own to visit her granny.</p>
	<p><i>Ada Twist, Scientist</i> by Andrea Beaty – age guide 4+</p>	<p>A rhyming story that celebrates the power of curiosity, scientific enquiry and smashes stereotypes</p>
	<p><i>Sky Song</i> by Abi Elphinstone – age guide 9+</p> <p><i>Additional themes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Girls and boys adventuring together - Caring boys (Flint cares for his sister) 	<p>In the snowy kingdom of Erkenwald join Eska, a girl who breaks free from a cursed music box and Flint, a boy whose inventions could change the fate of Erkenwald forever, on their mission to defeat the Ice Queen.</p>

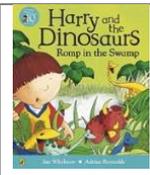
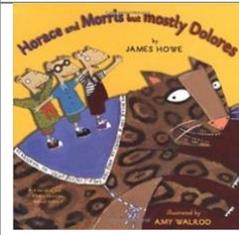
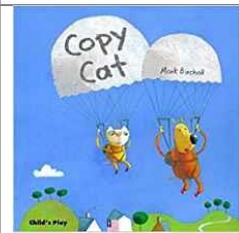
Theme – Emotions and caring boys

Important in dispelling myths that caring is ‘for girls’ and that boys don’t show their emotions

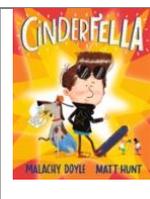
	<p><i>Clive and His Babies</i> by Jessica Spanyol – age guide 2+</p>	<p>Clive likes to look after his babies... Part of a series, <i>All About Clive</i>, celebrating diversity and challenging gender stereotypes</p>
	<p><i>Feelings</i> by Libby Walden, illustrated by Richard Jones – age guide 4+</p>	<p>Explore a world of emotions with this peep-through rhyming picture book</p>

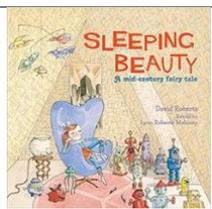
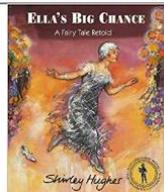
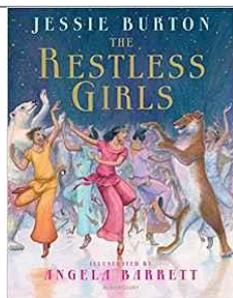
	<p><i>William's Doll</i> by Charlotte Zolotow – age guide 4+</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Why did William want a doll? Why did William's dad not want to buy him a doll?</p>	<p>More than anything, William wants a doll but only his grandmother understands</p>
	<p><i>Wonder</i> by R. J. Palacio – age guide 9+</p>	<p>'I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.' Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid, but his new classmates can't get past his extraordinary face</p>

Theme – Girls and boys playing together and sharing interests

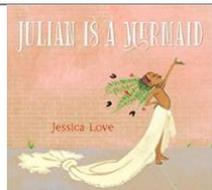
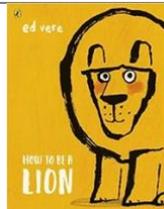
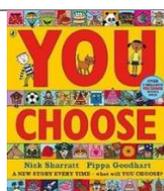
	<p><i>Romp in the Swamp</i> by Ian Whybrow – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Harry has to go and play with 'some girl called Charlie'. They have a brilliant time!</p>
	<p><i>Horace and Morris But Mostly Dolores</i> by James Howe – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Horace, Morris and Dolores have been best friends forever. But one day Horace and Morris join the Mega-Mice (no girls allowed), and Dolores joins the Cheese Puffs (no boys allowed). Is this the end?</p>
	<p><i>Copy Cat</i> by Mark Birchall – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Dog is fed up with Cat copying everything she does. But when Cat stays away, Dog realises that playing alone is much less fun. A story about friendship, sharing and play.</p>

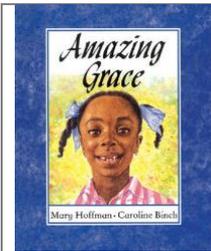
Theme – Alternative versions of traditional tales

	<p><i>Cinderfella</i> by Malachy Doyle – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Cinderfella is forever bossed around by his older brothers. When Kayleigh, the town's karate champion, is having a party, Cinderella is determined to dream</p>
---	---	--

		big, dress fancy and dance!
	<i>Sleeping Beauty, A mid-century fairy tale</i> by Lyn Roberts – age guide 5+	Meet a science-fiction obsessed heroine, a jealous witch and a resourceful rescuer in this stylish re-telling of the classic fairy tale
	<i>Ella's Big Chance</i> by Shirley Hughes – age guide 6+	A re-telling of Cinderella set in the 1920s, with a twist to inspire girls to be true to themselves
	<i>The Restless Girls</i> by Jessie Burton – age guide 8+	After their mother dies in a car accident, 12 sisters find their father cannot bear the idea of them ever being in danger and decides his daughters must be kept safe at all costs. But Princess Frida and her sisters begin their fight to be allowed to <i>live</i>

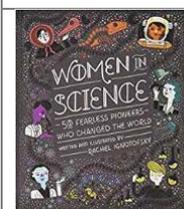
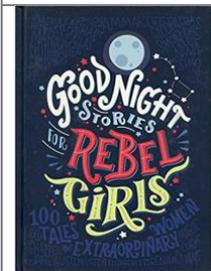
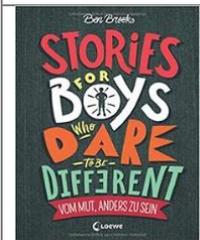
Theme – Be yourself

	<i>Julian is a Mermaid</i> by Jessica Love – age guide 3+	Julian loves mermaids. One day he sees three women dressed as mermaids and is inspired to transform himself into a mermaid. Nana helps him
	<i>How to be a Lion</i> by Ed Vere – age guide 3+ <i>Additional theme:</i> Emotions and caring boys	Leonard is a sensitive lion who likes writing and poetry but some people think he's not a very good lion
	<i>You Choose</i> by Pippa Goodhart – any age, especially younger children	Let your child's imagination run wild

	<p><i>Amazing Grace</i> by Mary Hoffman – age guide 3+</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Would you listen if someone told you that you couldn't do something just because you're a girl/boy, black/white?</p>	<p>Grace loves to act out stories. She longs to play Peter Pan but her classmates say that he was a boy and he wasn't black... but Grace's Ma and Nana tell her she can be anything she wants if she puts her mind to it.</p>
---	---	---

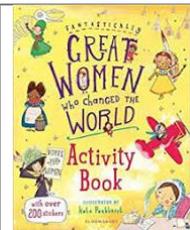
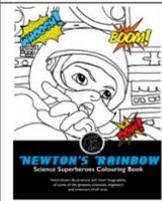
Theme – Non-fiction

Non-fiction books often show women and men in limited and traditional roles, influencing what children see as suitable roles for women and men.

	<p><i>What Are You Playing At?</i> by Marie-Sabine Roger – age guide 3+</p>	<p>Boys don't play with dollies and girls can't play football – that would be ridiculous! But the pictures tell a different story and show that in real life men and women do a whole range of things.</p>
	<p><i>Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World</i> by Rachel Ignotofsky – age guide 5+</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Why do we need books that focus on women scientists?</p>	<p>Illustrated book of 50 women scientists, some well-known, some often overlooked, showing the importance of women's contribution to science</p>
	<p><i>Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls</i> by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo age guide 6+</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Talk about the title ('for girls') – surely stories about influential and high-achieving women are for all children?</p>	<p>Illustrated by sixty female artists from every corner of the globe, find out about 100 remarkable women and their extraordinary lives, from Ada Lovelace to Malala, Amelia Earhart to Michelle Obama.</p>
	<p><i>Stories for boys who dare to be different</i> by Ben Brooks – age guide 6+</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Talk about the title ('for boys') – surely stories about inspiring boys and men, are for</p>	<p>An inspiring collection of stories about boys and men who changed the world without killing a single dragon or saving a single princess.</p>

	all children?	
--	---------------	--

Stereotype-free colouring and activity books

	<p><i>Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World Activity Book</i> by Kate Pankhurst – age guide 5+</p>	<p>Hands-on activities focused around great women who changed the world: write your own stories with Jane Austen, design your own pyjamas like Coco Chanel, walk in the footprints of Mary Anning</p>
	<p><i>Newton's Rainbow – Science Superheroes</i> colouring book from The Remarkablz</p>	<p>Colouring in pages and short biographies of great inventors, engineers and scientists, and the chance to create your own superheroes</p>
	<p><i>Colour this Book in – Dauntless Daughters</i></p>	<p>Images are powerful. Colour in empowering designs of diverse, joy-filled and female characters.</p>

Videos to stimulate discussion with children

Body image: Even after her make-up and hair are done, a model's image is Photoshopped before being used in an ad – dispels the idea of beauty as natural or effortless. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYhCn0jf46U> (1 min)

Gender pay gap explained in sweets: 'She was just as good as me so we should get the same reward' – simplified explanation of the gender pay gap using sweets <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/international-womens-day-norway-children-video-gender-pay-gap-boys-girls-finansforbundet-trade-union-a8245841.html> (2 mins)

Redraw the Balance: This video provocatively captures how, early on in their education, children already define career opportunities as male and female <https://www.inspiringthefuture.org/redraw-the-balance/> (2 mins)

No More Female Professionals: Video highlighting how gendered language around jobs contributes to the unconscious bias which limits the opportunities children see for themselves

<https://www.inspiringthefuture.org/no-more-female-professionals-campaign/> (1 min)

No More Boys and Girls BBC programme – short clips

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05d9kmg> – slogans on t-shirts for girls and boys

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWu44AqF0iI&t=2s> – volunteers surprised by their own unconscious bias

Further resources for parents and carers:

Men and emotion:

In this powerful video, Tony Porter makes a call to men everywhere: don't 'act like a man' (11 mins)

https://www.ted.com/talks/tony_porter_a_call_to_men#t-5837

We Should All be Feminists:

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie asks that we plan for a fairer world (29 mins)

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_we_should_all_be_feminists?language=en

The Gender Police: A Diary (book by Ros Ball and James Millar):

A mum and dad catalogue the drip-drip-drip of gendered messages their son and daughter receive every day from society, relatives, school and even their parents.

A Mighty Girl:

Useful source of books recommendations (as well as toys and movies) for smart, confident and courageous girls as well as parenting resources

<https://www.amightygirl.com>

Think or Blue:

Feminist parenting strategies to crush gender stereotypes and raise confident children

<http://www.thinkorblue.com>

For more information see www.liftinglimits.org.uk or contact info@liftinglimits.org.uk