



Why should we teach LGBT+ education in schools?

LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus other related identities children and young people exist in our world, exist in our families, exist in our primary schools.

Should we educate our children about diverse LGBT+ identities?

Yes! Discussing LGBT+ identities isn't about forcing children to think a certain way, or teaching them something that isn't age appropriate. It is simply about accepting, including and integrating with the people who already exist in your school community, and the wider world. It is about developing respect and understanding of those around us. The Department for Education (DfE) has highlighted that children whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information. It is recognised as good practice for primary schools to approach these topics with children in an age-appropriate way. Work with young people has shown that they value being able to speak about different types of relationship and to understand the language that they hear.

How do we teach children about LGBT+ people?

We have learned a lot over the years about how to best deliver LGBT+ positive education to primary aged children. Some of the key things are:

- This is the best time to do this positive work. Children are naturally accepting and lack prejudice, so this is the ideal time to introduce them to different types of people that exist in our (and in their) worlds...
- This work should be fun, positive, and engaging to encourage them to think about positive relationships and respecting different groups of people.
- That children can, and absolutely should, know the language and terminology for different kinds of people and know what those words mean. This is the only way to break the mystique and taboo sometimes associated with the word's lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans.



Primary school workshops

Primary school workshops are increasingly popular, because of the positive impact Ofsted and the DfE recognise, we are delivering more and more LGBT+ awareness workshops in primary schools. Facilitated by experienced advocates, many of whom have “lived experience”, we will carefully and skillfully navigate the topic in an age-appropriate way, through fun and engaging workshops.

In the KS1 Workshop we will:

- Read the story ‘And Tango makes Three’ – This is the **heart-warming true story of two penguins who create a non-traditional family.**
‘At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo got the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own.’

Step 1:

- Children to talk about/ draw a picture of their family on large sticky notes.
- Share and celebrate the differences between families.

Step 2:

- Look at the front cover of ‘And Tango Makes Three’, discuss:
 - Who is in the picture?
 - Where is the story taking place?
 - What do you think might happen in the story?

Step 3:

- Read the book together.
- Using materials, create an image of Roy, Silo and Tango.
- Add the penguin family to the display of the children’s families.



- Share: In 'And Tango Makes Three' we see families of penguins who love each other.

There are all different types of families; each family is special.

In the KS2 workshop we will:

- Highlight the existence of same-gender relationships through interactive cartoon/animated shorts from the likes of Pixar and Pop 'n' Ollie
- Give appropriate language and terminology to describe people who experience same-gender attraction
- Explain that marriage is equally available to all adults in the UK and some other countries, but that that was not always the case
- Encourage thinking about how to support friends to have healthy relationships and respect their choices.