

# RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS TEACHES HARMFUL MESSAGES

VICTORIA  
FOUNDATION  
(5-6 years old)

What is the school based program promoting 'respect' really teaching?

*Parents are bad,  
school is safe*

Why it matters:

Strong family connections are key to child safety and wellbeing<sup>1</sup>

**Parents** are the cause of problems

Adult in scenario that causes child's problems

Parent 

Teacher  

**Teachers** are the people who help

Adult in activity that helps child

Parent  

Teacher or school 

**X** Only teachers are described as 'trusted grown-ups'

**X** No activities portray parents as helpers

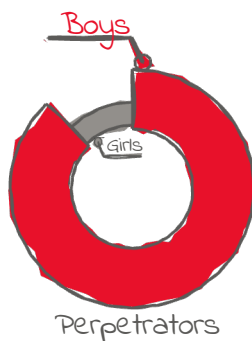
*Boys are violent, girls are victims*

Why it matters:

Positive portrayals of boys and girls are important for self-esteem

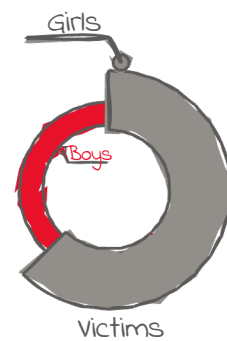
Boys shown as perpetrators of physical violence

Children shown as perpetrators of physical violence to other children



Girls shown as victims of physical violence

Children shown as victims of physical violence from other children

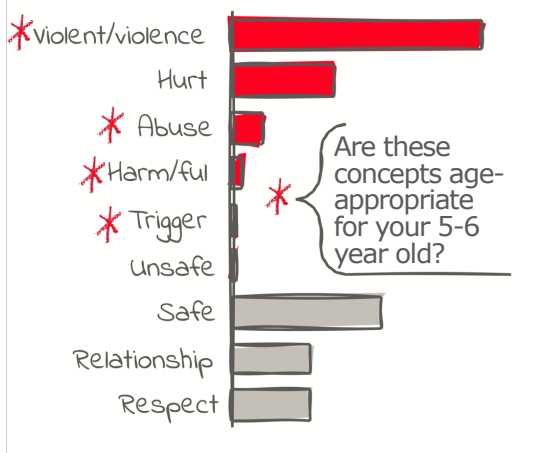


*Expect violence*

Why it matters:

Emphasis on violence increases fear and reduces resilience

Word count in Foundation materials



Playground interactions are labelled 'violent'

'Too rough' = 'violence'

“ Explain that there is a big word for too rough. We can call it violence. Ask students to say the word.<sup>2</sup> ”

'Gender based violence' in the sandpit

A scenario where girls are **excluded from the sandpit** is labelled 'gender-based violence'<sup>3</sup>

## TAKE ACTION



Look

at the content your child is taught



Set

boundaries for teaching your child



Tell

school which content is off limits for your child

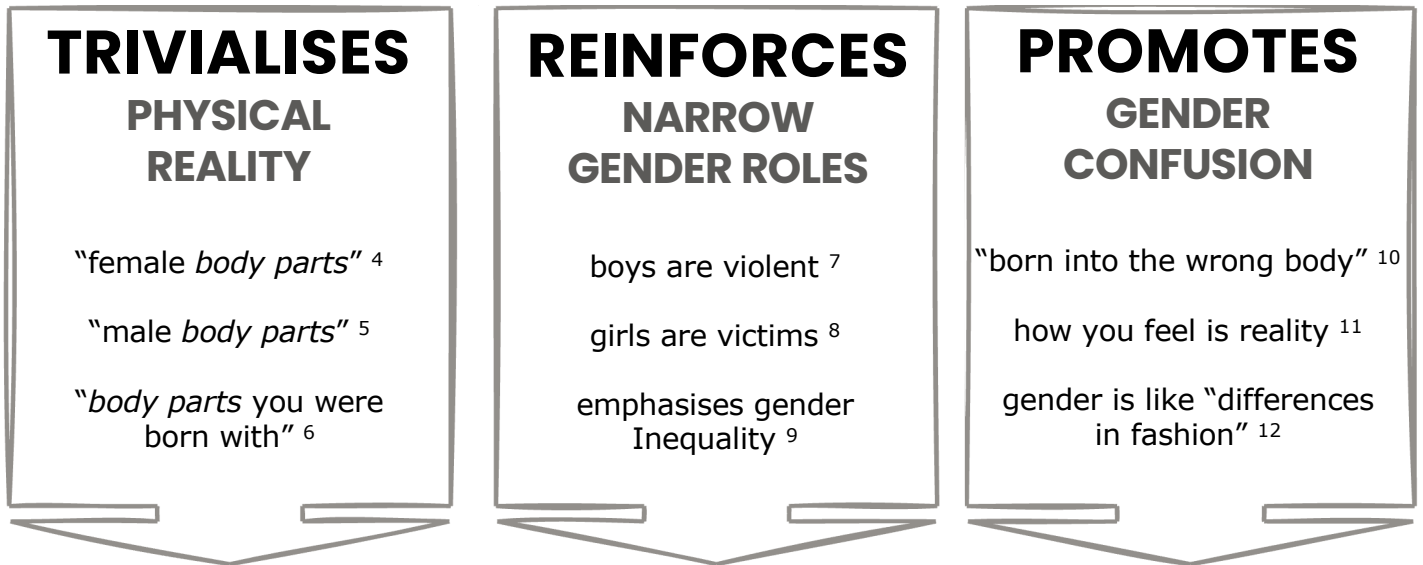
For tools and info visit our website



[stopgendereducation.au](http://stopgendereducation.au)

## YOU ARE THE EXPERT ON YOUR CHILD

## Respectful Relationships **distorts sex and gender**



- reduces the importance of physical bodies to isolated & unimportant parts that become optional
- presents 'born in the wrong body' as a simple solution to body discomfort
- creates confusion around sex & gender roles and societal expectations



**Creates gender confusion and shame**



## RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS **BEHIND THE LABELS**

Respectful Relationships promotes an **agenda**<sup>13</sup> aimed at **disrupting**<sup>14</sup> cultural **norms**<sup>15</sup> and **shaping young minds**<sup>16</sup> to fit an **activist vision of change**<sup>17</sup>

### Respectful Relationships impacts all Victorian Children

 1,950+ schools

Government, Catholic and independent schools have signed on to the whole school Respectful Relationships program

**100%** OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Respectful Relationships Progress<sup>18</sup>



Children and young people in schools are a **mass and captive audience**

- Respectful Relationships Education Victoria (2009)<sup>18</sup>

### Respectful Relationships is a wide-scale **social experiment**

- \* There is **no evidence** that Respectful Relationships Education **reduces violent behaviour**<sup>20</sup>
- \* There is **evidence** that violence prevention programs can **increase perpetration and victimisation rates**<sup>21</sup>