

Word Association

Overview: This activity promotes discussion of individual differences, equality and equity. It highlights the stereotypes that young people are aware of and provides a safe space to explore and challenge them.

Commented [LG(1): I developed this as the YP version of word association, I did this activity in the classroom before I knew of the adults one

Aim

To highlight prevalent stereotypes that young people have and are exposed to and supports discussion around these issues.

Links to CFE

HWB

1-09a, 2-09a, 3-09a, 4-09a
1-10a, 2-10a, 3-10a, 4-10a
1-11a, 2-11a, 3-11a, 4-11a

Preparation

- 6 (post-it sized) pieces of paper (scrap paper will work) per child
- Whiteboard divided into 2 sections or 2 large hula hoops stuck to the wall/board
- Blue-tac or sellotape

Activity

Word association– words associated with girls, words associated with boys

- Ask the class to each, individually, write down 3 words (adjectives, likes/dislikes, hobbies) they associate with girls and 3 they associate with boys (1 on each piece of paper)
- When they have finished you can ask them to come up to the board and put their words into the boy or girl side.
- Read out the words in the two sections, ask the class to think about these words and how they have associated them.

Discussion

- Which words relate to appearance?
- Which are positive words?
- Negative words?
- Does everyone agree with all the words – you could invite them to come up to the board to have a look, they can't move the words themselves but they could give their thoughts as to why they want to move a word and you could open that discussion up to the class. Opinions must be defended, you might need to support them to work out why.
- Talk about how transferable some of these words are, can boys be associated with the girls words and vice versa?