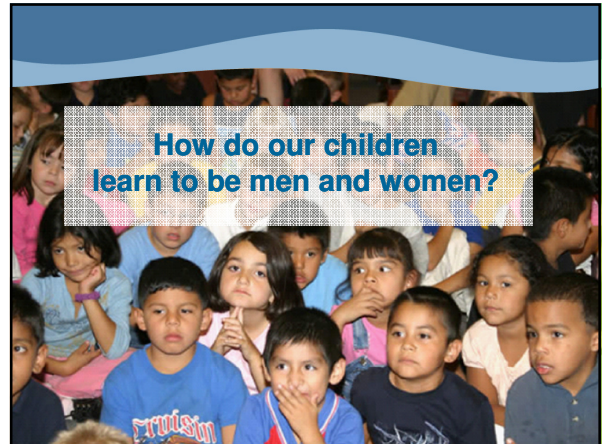




Gender: What Makes Us Different

How do our children
learn to be men and women?



How does this happen?
Socialization – the way we were
raised.



Family Influence

For young children ages 0-12, the
family is the primary influence of how
children learn to be men and women.

Messages From Our Family

- ❖ What parents do
- ❖ The messages we get from family
- ❖ Family traditions

Other Influences

During adolescence, ages 13+,
friends, media and **other
influences** shape how teens
think men and women should behave.

ACTIVITY 1:

When We Were Young



When We Were Young

- What were the roles like in my family when I was a little boy/girl?
- What work/chores did my mom and dad do when I was a little boy/girl?
- What were the children expected to do?

Stereotypes – common ideas that may or may not be true that may become part of what we believe

Common Beliefs About Boys



Boys

- ❖ Are strong and active
- ❖ Are independent and deserve more freedom
- ❖ Are less sensitive and caring
- ❖ Want to be the boss

Common Beliefs About Girls

Girls

- ❖ Are delicate, fragile and need greater care
- ❖ Need more affection and protection
- ❖ Are more sensitive and nurturing
- ❖ Enjoy doing things for other people



What do we learn?

Boys

When parents are less affectionate and loving with boys than with girls, boys learn to become less emotional and more distant.

What do we learn?

Girls

When parents are more affectionate and have more interaction and physical closeness with daughters than sons, girls learn closeness and communication.

Key points

- ❖ Family and culture influence who we are as boys and girls and who we become as men and women.
- ❖ Different expectations for boys and girls later affect what we expect from each other as men and women.

ACTIVITY 2:

Something to Talk About

“Dichos”

What phrases, or “dichos,” do you know describing how men and women are to behave?

Common Beliefs About Men



- ❖ Main role in the family is to protect and provide
- ❖ See themselves as:
 - ❖ Independent
 - ❖ Not emotional
 - ❖ Productive
 - ❖ Decision-maker

True or False?

Men

- ❖ Men take their roles seriously as provider, protector and decision maker.
- ❖ Men place more importance on success at work than spending time with family.

Common Messages About Men

- ❖ Don't be a wimp.
- ❖ Be important.
- ❖ Be strong at all times.
- ❖ Be bold, a “winner” and courageous.
- ❖ Others?

Common Messages About Men

Machismo – the belief that the man is the head of the family and responsible for protecting and providing for the needs of the family.

Common Beliefs About Women

- ❖ Main role in the family is affection, caring for others and emotional support.
 - ❖ Self-sacrificing
 - ❖ Heartbeat of the family
 - ❖ Responsible for household chores and the children

True or False?

Women

- ❖ All women think motherhood is important to make them feel fulfilled.
- ❖ All women are concerned about being able to balance work with family.
- ❖ To be successful at work, a woman must put her family in second place.

Common Messages to Women

- ❖ Don't be a tomboy.
- ❖ “El hombre propone y la mujer dispone.”
- ❖ The way to a man's heart is through...his stomach or ... the kitchen.
- ❖ Others?

Cultural Beliefs



Marianismo – belief that women should wait until after marriage to have sex and that they should focus on becoming good mothers and faithful wives.

Changing Expectations

Acculturation – the blending of a new culture's beliefs and traditions with our own

Questioning Common Beliefs

MEN

- ❖ Share responsibilities as “provider.”
- ❖ May do more household chores.
- ❖ May have a more active role parenting children.

Questioning Common Beliefs

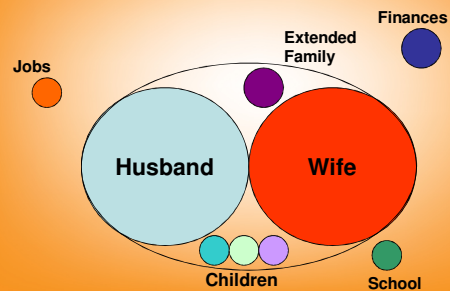
WOMEN

- ❖ May choose to work outside the home.
- ❖ May receive additional education and training.
- ❖ May wait to get married and/or have children.

Effects on Couples

- ❖ One spouse may blame the other for changes.
- ❖ Sharing new cultural experiences may bring the couple closer together.
- ❖ The couple may experience more shared parenting responsibilities.

Keeping it Together



Tips for Couples

- ❖ Be patient and support each other while living in and adapting to a new culture.
- ❖ Talk about changing expectations.
- ❖ Promise that no one and nothing will come between you.
- ❖ Tell each other of your love and loyalty.

ACTIVITY 3:

Your Family Treasure Chest



Your Family Treasure Chest



As a couple, decide what to put in your treasure chest.