12.4: Summary

As children develop an understanding of gender, gender biased behavior may appear. Early childhood educators can create a physical and emotional environment that support healthy gender development that is not prejudiced and help children explore gender as a social justice issue (children are very aware of things that aren’t fair).

Teachers must also be aware of their own gender-related biases. They must be reflective in what experiences and materials they provide for all children and respond in ways that are equitable for children regardless of their gender and gender expression. Gender affirming care is especially critical for gender-diverse children.