

Gender & Sex Development Program

Professional Development Opportunities

Research indicates that gender impacts all students and binary views of gender create additional challenges for transgender and gender nonconforming youth. We can work with your team to ensure that you have the tools to create a gender inclusive environment.



Our workshops provide safe spaces for attendees to engage in an open dialogue. They are encouraged to ask questions and reflect on their practices. Workshops provide attendees with the tools they need to begin creating and advocating for safe and affirming environments for all children and adolescents, including those who fall outside of traditional gender stereotypes.

The Gender and Sex Development Program at Lurie Children's provides professional development for:

- Schools: Preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school, and college programs
- Community programs
- Hospitals
- Mental health providers
- Individuals and organizations supporting trans and gender expansive children and adolescents

About Our Facilitator

Jennifer Leininger | Program Manager

Jennifer Leininger, MEd, manages the Gender & Sex Development Program at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. As Program Manager, Jennifer leads community, policy and advocacy initiatives. She specializes in working with schools and organizations to be more inclusive of gender diversity. Jennifer continues to develop and implement educational sessions to support the inclusion of gender expansive youth and their families in their schools and communities. Since 2008, Jennifer has provided family-centered, patient support while working in Lurie Children's Division of Adolescent Medicine. Jennifer holds a Master of Education degree from DePaul University in addition to a BS (Marketing) and a BA (Theatre) from Miami University. In addition to her work at Lurie Children's, Jennifer has worked on adolescent and children's programming with other nationally recognized organizations, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Old Town School of Folk Music and About Face Youth Theatre.

Contact Us

For more information or to schedule a session, please contact Jennifer Leininger at 773.303.6056 or JLeininger@luriechildrens.org.