

Parent Attitudes, Agency and Practices Scale

- Sex refers to biological characteristics of men and women, typically assigned at birth.
- Gender is your sense of who you are – male, female, both or neither.
- Gender stereotypes are ideas about how people of specific genders should behave. These can include ideas about who does certain jobs at home and in the workforce, plays certain sports, and what we wear and how we show emotions.

This questionnaire contains three sections. Please read each statement and select a number on each scale that indicates how much you strongly disagree or agree with each statement.

Parent attitudes

		Very Strongly agree				Very Strongly Disagree			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	It is important for parents to raise children without exposure to gender-based role stereotypes.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2.	Parents should help their children understand what gender-based roles are.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3.	Parents have an important role in teaching their children about the negative effects of gender-based roles.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4.	Parents have an important role in teaching their children about the positive effects of gender-based roles.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5.	Gender-based roles are important to help children understand their place in the world.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6.	Children need to understand what gender-based roles are to have good relationships with other people.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
7.	Gender-based roles stop children from trying out things that are not seen as typical for their gender.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8.	Gender-based roles create unrealistic expectations for children about how they should behave.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
9.	Gender-based roles help children to develop their own individual interests.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
10.	Children can become confused in their gender identity if too much focus is placed on creating a gender-neutral home.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
11.	Gender-based roles help children to develop a healthy sense of gender identity.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
12.	Children can put too much value on their gender identity if parents emphasise gender-based roles.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	



Agency

		Very Strongly Agree				Very Strongly Disagree		
1.	My child's preferences for clothes are down to their sex, and it doesn't matter what I encourage them to wear.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	I have tried to encourage my child to wear gender neutral clothes, but they still prefer clothing that is stereotypical for their sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Gender stereotyped messages that my child sees in the media, outweigh things that I do to create an environment free from gender-based stereotypes.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Controlling the media that my child is exposed to makes it less likely they will be influenced by gender stereotypes.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	It doesn't matter what toys I offer my child, they prefer to play with gender stereotypical toys.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	The way I model how men/women behave affects my child's view of men/women.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	No matter how much I encourage an environment free from gender stereotypes, my child's sex determines how they will behave.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7



Parenting practices

For parents of boys		Very Strongly Agree				Very Strongly Disagree			
1.	I avoid using gendered labels (e.g., he's such a cute turtle) when talking with my son.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2.	I refer to people by their gender (e.g., look at that girl on the slide) when talking with my son.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3.	I offer activities to my son that I believe are appropriate for boys.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4.	I discourage my son from taking part in activities that are not appropriate for boys.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5.	I tease my son when he plays in ways that are more appropriate for girls (e.g., dress-ups or doll play).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6.	When my son dresses up like a girl, I make sure other people aren't around to see it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
7.	When my son dresses up like a girl, I discourage him from doing this.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8.	When my son plays dress up like a girl, I encourage him to keep playing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
9.	I praise my son when I see him playing with toys or books that are meant for boys.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
10.	I encourage my son when I see him playing in ways that boys typically do.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
11.	I encourage my son to play with a range of toys and books regardless of whether they are meant for boys or girls.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
12.	I provide gender neutral toys to my son.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
13.	My son mostly has gender stereotypical toys.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
14.	My son mostly has toys designed for boys.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
15.	I encourage my son to dress in a gender-neutral way.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
16.	I make sure my son has clothes typical for boys.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
17.	When a stranger sees my son, they can tell whether he is a boy because of the clothes he is wearing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
18.	My son's bedroom is decorated in a gender-neutral way.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
19.	I have decorated my son's bedroom in a way that matches with his sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
20.	I don't allow my son to watch media that portray gender stereotypes.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
21.	I pick books for my son that do not portray gendered role models.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	



For parents of girls		Very Strongly Agree				Very Strongly Disagree		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	I avoid using gendered labels (e.g., he's such a cute turtle) when talking with my daughter.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	I refer to people by their gender (e.g., look at that girl on the slide) when talking with my daughter.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	I offer activities to my daughter that I believe are appropriate for girls.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	I discourage my daughter from taking part in activities that are not appropriate for girls.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	I tease my daughter when she plays in ways that are more appropriate for boys (e.g., messy play or car play).	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	When my daughter dresses up like a boy, I make sure other people aren't around to see it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	When my daughter dresses up like a boy, I discourage her from doing this.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	When my daughter plays dress up like a boy, I encourage her to keep playing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	I praise my daughter when I see her playing with toys or books that are meant for girls.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	I encourage my daughter when I see her playing in ways that girls typically do.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	I encourage my daughter to play with a range of toys and books regardless of whether they are meant for boys or girls.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	I provide gender neutral toys to my daughter.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	My daughter mostly has gender stereotypical toys.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	My daughter mostly has toys designed for girls.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	I encourage my daughter to dress in a gender-neutral way.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	I make sure my daughter has clothes typical for girls.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	When a stranger sees my daughter, they can tell she is a girl because of the clothes she is wearing.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	My daughter's bedroom is decorated in a gender-neutral way.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	I have decorated my daughter's bedroom in a way that matches with her sex.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	I don't allow my daughter to watch media that portray gender stereotypes.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	I pick books for my daughter that do not portray gendered role models.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Citation:

Lee, H., Morawska, A., Gates, S. and Hepburn, S-J. (2026). Development and validation of the Parent Attitudes, Agency and Practices Scale. *Journal of Child and Family Studies* **35**, 1316–1330. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-026-03270-9>