

Activity 2.1: Explaining sex and gender – PDF format

Task:

For this activity, there is a table containing three columns. A list of nine items accompanies the table. The activity asks ‘what happens when a baby is born?’ For each of the nine items, assign it to the relevant column.

The three columns in the table are:

1. Column 1: What is observed?
2. Column 2: What is assigned?
3. Column 3: What is assumed?

The items in the list are:

1. Gender identity
2. Gendered names (e.g., ending in -a for girls)
3. A child has a penis, a vulva or ambiguous intersex genitalia
4. A birth certificate
5. Gendered roles and expectations
6. Chromosomes
7. A binary, legal sex category – male or female
8. Internal reproduction, e.g., gametes (sperm/ova), womb
9. Pronouns (UK: generally ‘he’ or ‘she’).

Answer:

The correct answer is:

Column 1: What is observed?

- A child has a penis, a vulva or ambiguous intersex genitalia.

Column 2: What is assigned?

- A binary, legal sex category – male or female
- Gendered names (e.g., ending in -a for girls)
- Pronouns (UK: generally ‘he’ or ‘she’)
- A birth certificate
- Gendered roles and expectations.

Column 3: What is assumed?

- Internal reproduction, e.g., gametes (sperm/ova), womb.
- Chromosomes
- Gender identity.