



Gender Education for Children: What We Learned and Created



We are LABO2, one of the research teams in Showa high school.
Our team has inherited the theme of "gender awareness and education" from our seniors.

Our GOAL This Year

**What is the best way of gender education
for elementary and junior high school girls?**

1 Initiatives and Achievements of Our Predecessors

Finland Study (2023)

- Restroom pictograms: no gendered colors
- Small population → everyone works → supports gender equality
- Gender education from early childhood
- Open attitudes toward gender and identity
- Female prime minister = "normal," not special
- Housework done by all ages and genders

Survey Result (2024)

- Statement: "Women should be protected by men"
- National agreement: ~62%
- Our school: ~39% (~23%)
- Girls' school → little comparison with boys
- Less sense of gender hierarchy → less gender bias



What is a "Gender Karuta"?



This "Gender Karuta" was created by our seniors in 2021 and has been passed down through the years. It is still used in health education classes today. The card on the left conveys the message that anyone should feel free to wear the accessories they like—such as necklaces, earrings, or rings—regardless of gender.

2 Exploring and Putting Into Practice The Ideal Form of Education

① Learning About Gender

- Participated in lectures and workshops on gender equality
- Read books and articles
- Interviewed a university professor about Pretty Cure's fashion and its relation to gender issues
 - from the perspective of gender bias, it is important to enjoy characters not by viewing them through their gender, but by focusing on their individual personalities and backgrounds.



② Creating and Practicing

- Created a gender-education booklet for elementary and junior high children
- Tested booklet and card game at school festival
 - observed the effect for children

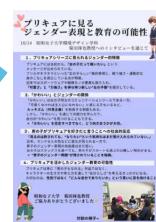
③ Reflections / Points to Improve

- Some materials too advanced for elementary students
- "Pretty Cure" theme effective but lesson content sometimes complex
- Quiz questions too challenging
 - need simpler questions and clearer examples



Our Lesson at the School Festival 2025/11/15,16

We used "Pretty Cure" as a familiar example to set up a lesson about "being yourself" instead of "being boy-like or girl-like" for elementary school applicants and their parents. Students watched a transformation scene and explored the characters' personalities, feelings, and background rather than focusing on gender. Through parent-child discussion, they talked about "cuteness and coolness," individuality, and their own sense of self. The lesson helped the students to understand the importance of expressing themselves freely without gender stereotypes.



3 Conclusion:

What We Found About Gender Education

It is important not to judge people only by the labels "boy" or "girl", but to look at their personality, background, and experiences as individuals.

Gender is only one part of a person's identity, and developing a perspective free from stereotypes leads to more effective gender education.

To achieve this, in gender education, it is crucial to help students to focus on each individual.

It is effective to use familiar examples from the children's perspective like karuta and Pretty Cure to reduce unconscious bias.

In the future, we aim to continue exploring more effective approaches to gender education from multiple perspectives.

We hope to build a society where people can express themselves freely without stereotypes.