

JODI DODWELL: In the four-year-old classroom, there's a lot of gender identity going on. They're really recognizing who and what they are, and trying on different personalities to see what fits. I have a good portion of my boys who play family. They are the ones changing the babies, feeding the babies, involved with the diapers. I guide conversations with them-- if I hear girls do this, boys do this-- and just guide that conversation. You know, what makes you say that? Why are you thinking that?

We also intentionally set up the environment so there is no, these are the girl dress-up clothes, these are the boy-dress up clothes. Anyone is allowed to go in any area and play with anything that they would like to play with. The children are encouraged to explore different toys. Girls are encouraged to play with trucks. Boys are encouraged to dress up in dresses, and be the caretakers, and take care of the babies, and change their diapers.

[CHILDREN TALKING]

Nice. [CHILDREN TALKING]

Why would he-- why would he want to be a princess?

Because they want to. What's wrong with being a princess? Princesses are cool, just like being a superhero.

I don't believe in there being any one set way to play with anything in the classroom.