
Tekst 11

Can You Make Boys Play with Dolls?

adapted from an article by Justin Green

- 1 Egalia, a new state-sponsored pre-school in Stockholm, is dedicated to the total obliteration of the male and female distinction. There are no boys and girls at Egalia – just 'friends' and 'buddies'. "Egalia gives children a fantastic opportunity to be whoever they want to be," says one excited teacher. (It is probably necessary to add that this is not a fantasy: this school actually exists.)
- 2 The Swedes are treating gender-conforming children the way we once treated gender-variant children, formerly called 'tomboy girls' and 'sissy boys'. These gender-variant kids are persistently attracted to the toys of the opposite sex. They will often remain fixated on the 'wrong' toys despite relentless, often cruel pressure from parents, doctors, and peers. These children's 39 sex-stereotyped culture – a non-stop Toys"R"Us indoctrination – seems to have little effect on their passion for the toys of the opposite sex.
- 3 There was a time when a boy who displayed a persistent aversion to trucks and rough play, and a fixation on frilly dolls or princess paraphernalia would have been considered a candidate for behavior modification therapy. Today, most experts encourage tolerance, understanding, and acceptance: just leave him alone and let him play as he wants. The Swedes should extend the same tolerant understanding to the gender identity and preferences of the vast majority of children.

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- 1p **39** Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 2?
- A denial of
 - B immersion in
 - C obsession with
 - D view on
- 1p **40** How can the tone of this article be characterised?
- A as critical
 - B as furious
 - C as objective
 - D as optimistic