

## How to Include Transgender Children and Youth

1. Someone's gender identity is their own private information. They are not required to share it with anyone they do not want to. No one should share information about someone else's gender identity/transgender status without that person's consent.
2. Binary language like "brothers and sisters in Christ" or "boys and girls" is exclusive of individuals with non-binary gender identities. More inclusive language like "friends in Christ", "everyone", or "children" is encouraged.
3. Make it a habit to include choices for pronouns on all church materials, e.g. registration forms, name badges, etc. Do not 'other' trans/non-binary people by only asking them for their pronouns, ask everyone. Instead of saying "preferred pronouns" simply say "pronouns."
4. If a child exhibits a behavior that is not culturally normative for the gender they were assigned at birth but it isn't harmful, don't punish that behavior.
5. It is helpful to have non-gendered, single stall/single user restrooms available, and to have signage that makes it clear where they are.
6. If you must request a child's gender identity status in a sign-up or registration form, make sure to provide options beyond "male" and "female" that are inclusive of other identities.
7. Have a list of local resources available to assist in the event of a crisis in a transgender child/youth's life (e.g., affirming therapists, crisis hot and warm line numbers). a. Trevor Project Hotline for LGBTQIA Youth (national): 1-866-488-7386 b. Lost n Found LGBTQIA Youth Crisis Line (regional): 678-856-7825
8. Be mindful of your language choices and avoid offensive and outdated terminology such as "hermaphrodite," "tranny," "he/she" etc. Correct and educate people if you over hear them using such language.