

LET'S LEARN STEP UP AND SPEAK OUT!

Module 6 – Stand Up for Girls

What's the issue?



To stand up for girls is to stand up for all females no matter where they are. The ripples of our behavior move across borders and socioeconomic boundaries.

We can change stereotypes of who girls are and how they are treated by improving our own behavior and speaking up for change. Stereotyping can negatively affect a young

person's classroom experience, academic performance, career choice and well-being.

What do we already know?

For the purposes of this discussion, binary terms are used.

Substitute other terms as needed.

- What are some ways to refer to girls and boys without using gender (ie: students, scholars, members) Why is this a good idea?
- Are girls and boys mostly similar or totally different? When do you see boys and girls divided into separate groups? Why?
- In what ways can we avoid treating girls and boys differently?
- Can different genders be friends without romantic feelings involved?
- How have you observed men and women being treated differently? Why do you think this is?
- What is your dream for the world?

Facts and Words to Know

In 2020, the US failed to place in the top 50 of the World Economic Forum's ranking of 153 countries based on gender equality.

In a study supported by the National Science Foundation, researchers found that by age 6, girls were already significantly less likely than boys to say that members of their own gender were "really, really smart." Those same girls were more likely to avoid games described as for children who are "really, really smart." At age 5, these differences had not yet appeared and both boys and girls associated brilliance with their own gender similarly.

Words to learn:

- Bias
- Stereotype
- Gender
- Trait
- Indirect Discrimination
- Double Standard

Experience It:

Gender roles in society attempt to define how we are expected to act, speak, dress, groom and conduct ourselves based upon our assigned sex. For example, girls and women are generally expected to dress in typically feminine ways and be polite, accommodating and nurturing.

Gender roles can also attempt to negatively define boys, expecting them to be always be tough and good at sports, play with trucks, and to not be emotional.

What are the 2 Feet of Love in Action?

When someone needs our help, we use both of our feet to be love in action. The **charity** step is to help with immediate needs (attention, food, medication), the **justice** step is to find the root of the problem and work to make change.

Resources

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #5

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

6 Easy Ways to Bust Stereotypes

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/raising-girls/leadership/life-skills/everyday-ways-to-bust-gender-stereotypes.html>

First Foot Acts of Charity

Ideas for Charity

Be a good friend to everyone whatever their style. Is someone new at your school? A simple “Hi” can make their day better. Invite them to sit with you and your friends for lunch.

If a friend isn’t acting like themselves, invite them to spend some time with you. Your support will help them feel like they are not alone.

Be a good listener. If you listen closely to what your classmates have to say, you will get to know them for who they are, not for who you think they should be.

Second Foot Acts of Justice

Ideas for Justice

Do have a concern at school or in your community to address? Write an effective letter to the principal or community leader expressing your concern **and** suggest a solution.

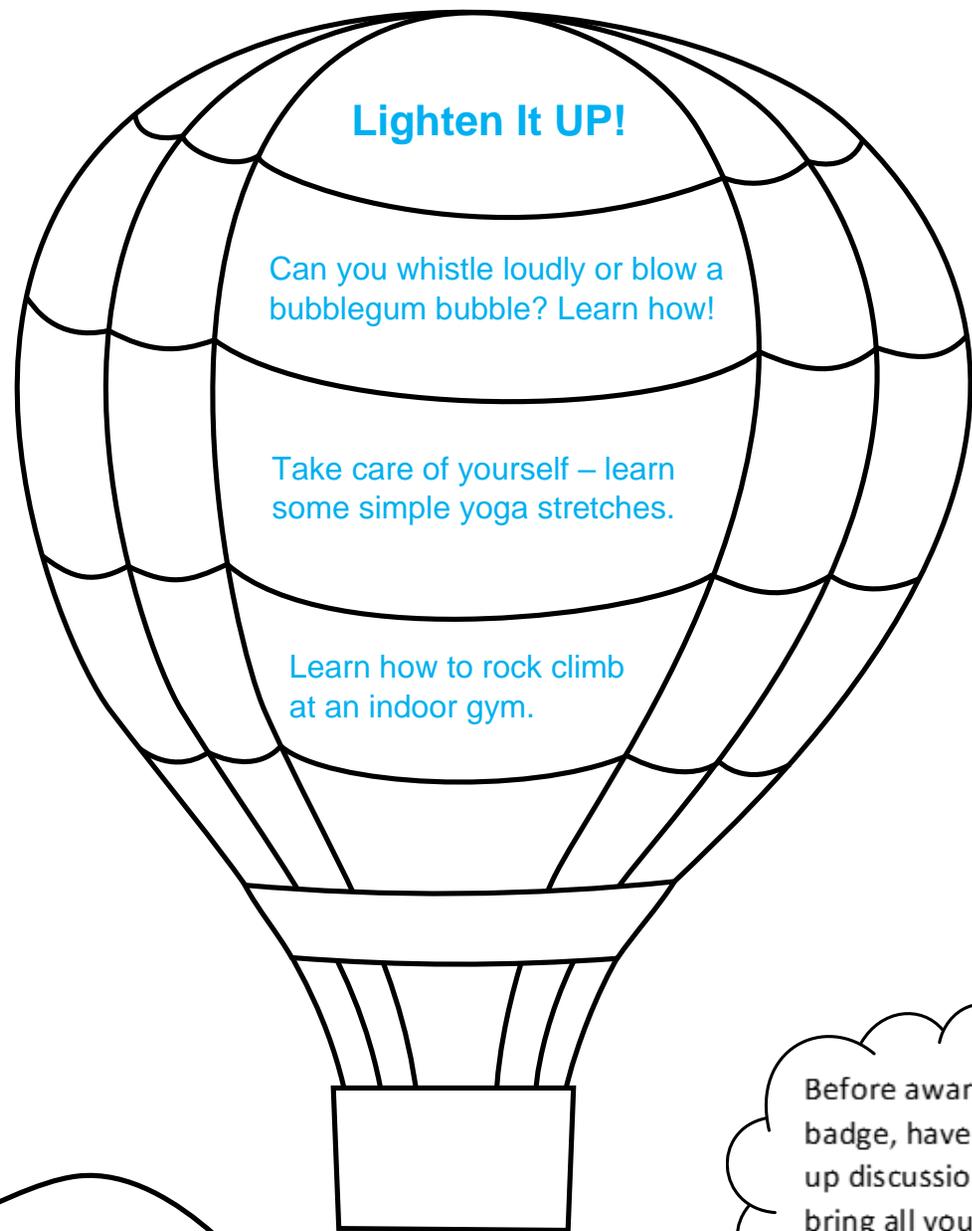
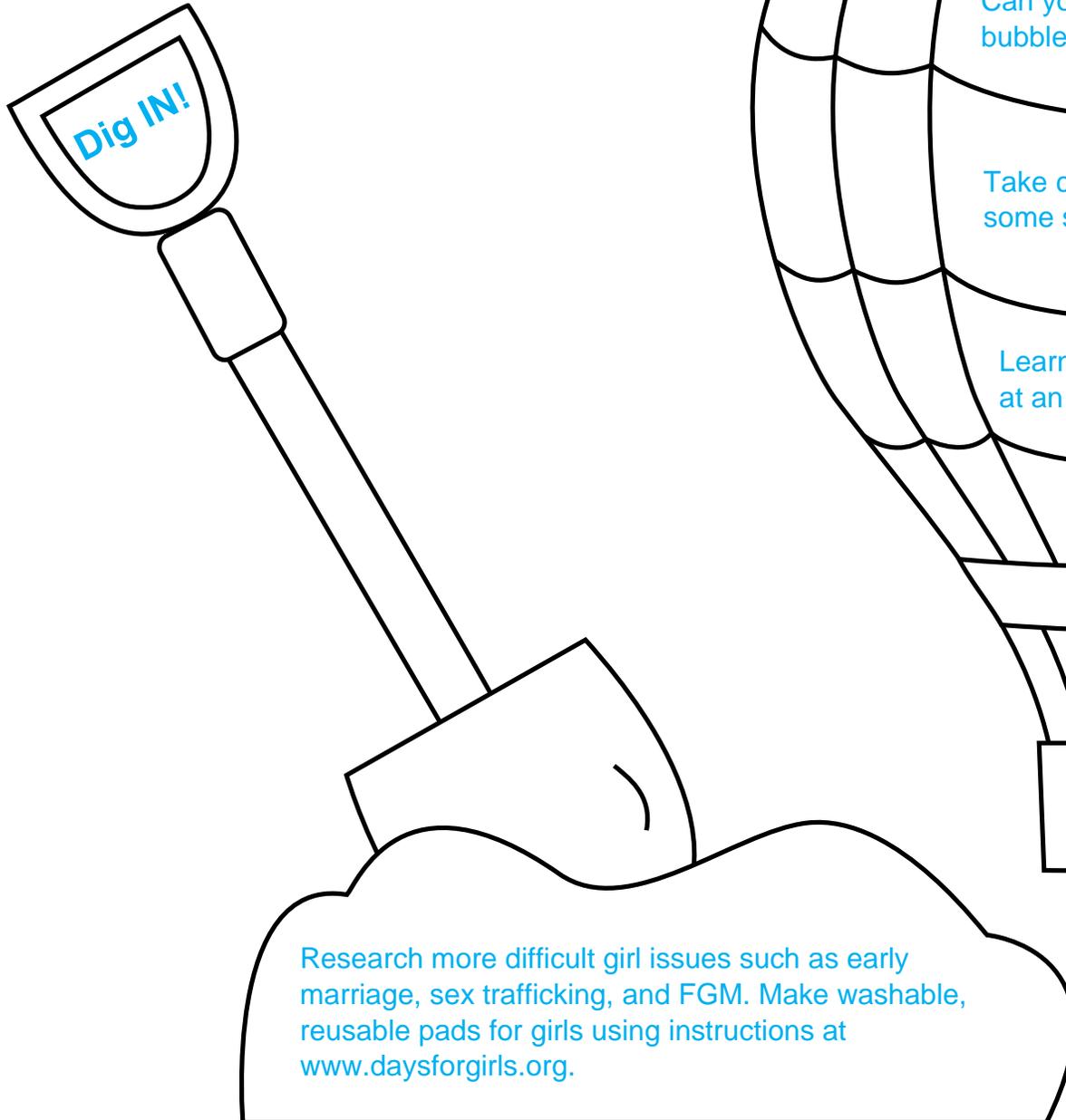
Read about these girls who tackled issues in their own community.
<https://www.yesmagazine.org/democracy/2018/06/22/when-girls-take-the-lead-on-social-justice-5-stories>

Notice what you say about gender differences. Being your best self in every day can make a difference.



What's next?

You can Dig Deeper or Lighten it Up!



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