



# GENDER AND TOYS

Amal, Katherine, McKenna, and Tatiana



# THE PROBLEM

We gender things! Everything!

-- Toy aisles at stores

-- Gender Reveal Parties

-- Obsession with labeling toys and putting children into boxes

So what can we do about it?



## Brain Development



## Women in Politics\* and Gender Roles



## Gendered Toys as a Leverage Point

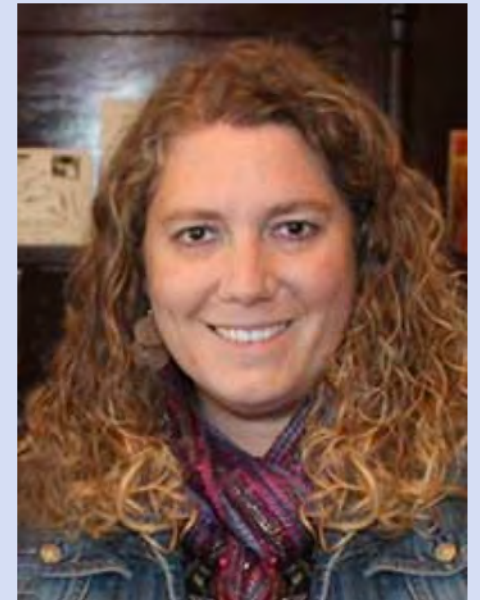


\*or lack thereof. The Congressional number currently hovers at 19% in the House and 22% in the Senate.

# The Literature

# What we did

- McKenna – interview
- Amal – interview
- Tatiana – interviews
- Katherine – literature and recommendations



# What we found



- McKenna's Interview Found:

- A hesitancy with dads to allow their sons to dress up and play with "girl toys"

- Tatiana found:

- The CDC is doing everything the research says!
- Some reluctance on behalf of parents could indicate that more education on this topic is needed
- Showing children stereotypes fosters important discussions and can be just as beneficial as providing them with non-stereotypical toys

# What we have for you...

**A** GENCY



**Allow kids to have agency!**

**G** ENDER REVEAL  
PARTIES



**Don't get roped into the gender-reveal party fad! It only reinforces the gender binary. Life is not as simple as "boy or girl." Touchdowns or tutus.**

**E** DUCATE



**Educate! Especially dads! Stay up-to-date on the most recent research when/if you have kids.**

**S** TEREOTYPES



**Instead of censoring stereotypes, use them to your advantage. Frame the discussion.**

# Bibliography

Bartholomaeus, Clare. "Girls Can Like Boy Toys: Junior Primary School Children's Understandings of Feminist Picture Books." *Gender & Education* 28, no. 7 (2016): 935 - 950. doi: 10.1080/09540253.2015.1106443.

Dinella, Lisa, Weisgram, Erica, and Fulcher, Megan. "Children's Gender-Typed Toy Interests: Does Propulsion Matter?" *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 46, no. 5 (2017): 1295-1305. doi: 10.1007/s10508-016-0901-5.

"How Today's Toys May Be Harming Your Daughter." *National Geographic*. December 15, 2016. Accessed March 14, 2018.

Raag, Tarja. "Influences of Social Expectations of Gender, Gender Stereotypes, and Situational Constraints on Children's Toy Choices." *Sex Roles* 41, no. 11-12 (1999): 809-831. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1018828328713>.

Raag, Tarja, and Rackliff, Christine L. "Preschoolers' Awareness of Social Expectations of Gender: Relationships to Toy Choices." *Sex Roles* 38, no. 9-10 (1998): 685-700. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1018890728636>.

The White House. "Fact Sheet Breaking Down Gender Stereotype." *Obama White House Archives* (2016). <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/04/06/factsheet-breaking-down-gender-stereotypes-media-and-toys-so-our>

"Why it Matters." *Let Toys Be Toys*. May 11, 2016. Accessed March 14, 2018.