



NO ONE IS TOO YOUNG FOR QUEER REPRESENTATION.

**A ZINE DEBUNKING THE
IDEA THAT QUEER
REPRESENTATION IS
ONLY FOR GROWN-UPS.**

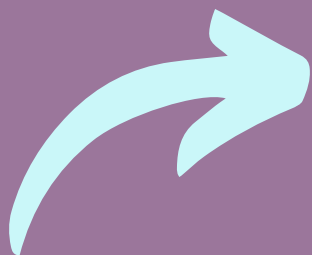


"PEOPLE ARE COMING OUT AS QUEER EARLIER THAN EVER BEFORE..."

"...While studies in the 1970s documented LGBT people coming out, on average, in their early twenties, **the latest research demonstrates that the average age has dropped to anywhere between 14 and 16.**" (Buzzfeed)



Some have attributed this change to an **increase in queer representation** in the media and in communities.



This cultural shift has sparked a new moral panic that demonizes queer representation in an effort to "save the children."



THIS IS A HARMFUL MYTH



FIRST OF ALL, CHILDREN DO LEARN ABOUT GENDER AND SEXUALITY.

(They learn all about cisgenderism and heterosexuality.)

Children are constantly bombarded with messaging about **what it means to be straight and cis.**



Innuendos on baby clothes.



Gender reveal parties.



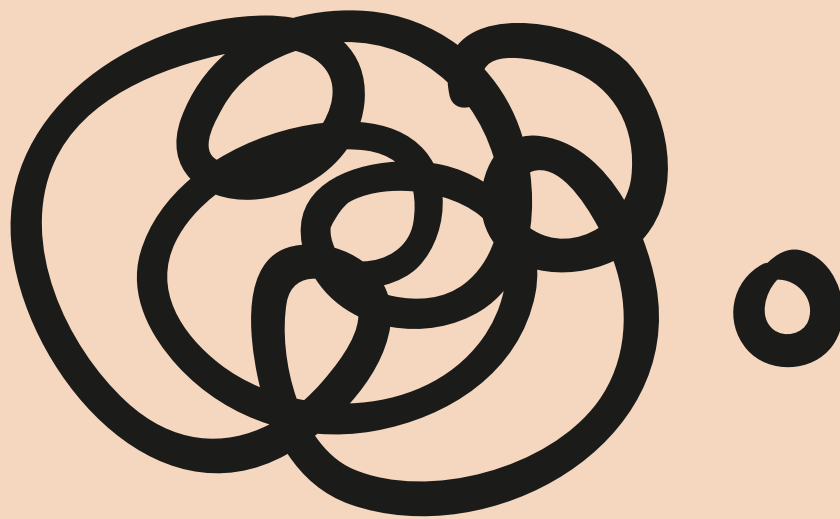
Kid's movies.

This position perpetuates the idea that people are *born straight and become queer*.
This isn't true.

**THE ISSUE ISN'T QUEERNESS,
IT'S HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA.**

**In our society, there
is an assumption that
only queer people
have a sexuality and
a gender identity.**


(Straight and cis people are just
considered “normal” or “regular.”)



***Regardless of your orientation or identity,
you have a gender and sexuality.****

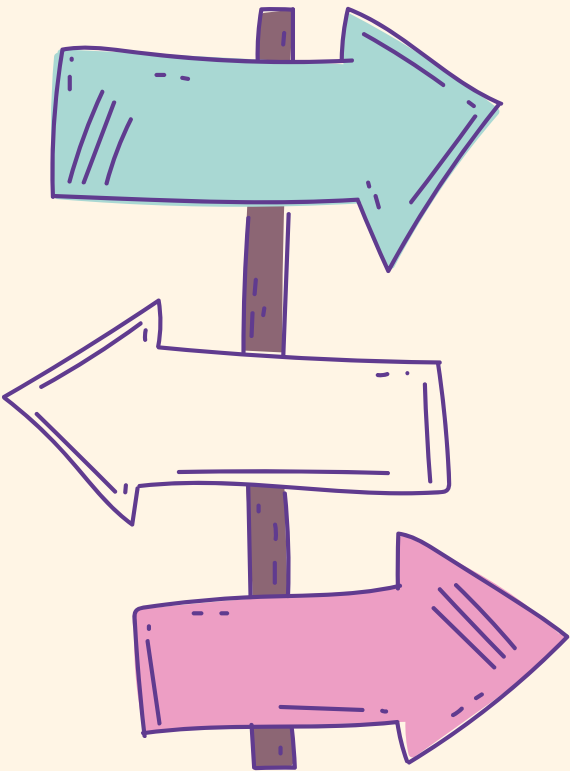
@queersexedcc | www.queersexedcc.com

*Note: Some folks identify as agender, meaning they do not identify with any gender and may prefer to not have any gender (including non-binary) ascribed to them. This is a valid identity! We are not here to deny the experiences of agender people.



“When [adults] think of gay people, they think of sexually active people ... they don’t think of children. But sexual orientation is much broader than sexuality. It deals with *connectedness* and *relatedness*. It’s *spiritual* and *social*, as well as *romantic* and *sexual*.”
- (Buzzfeed)

Sexuality is more than sex.

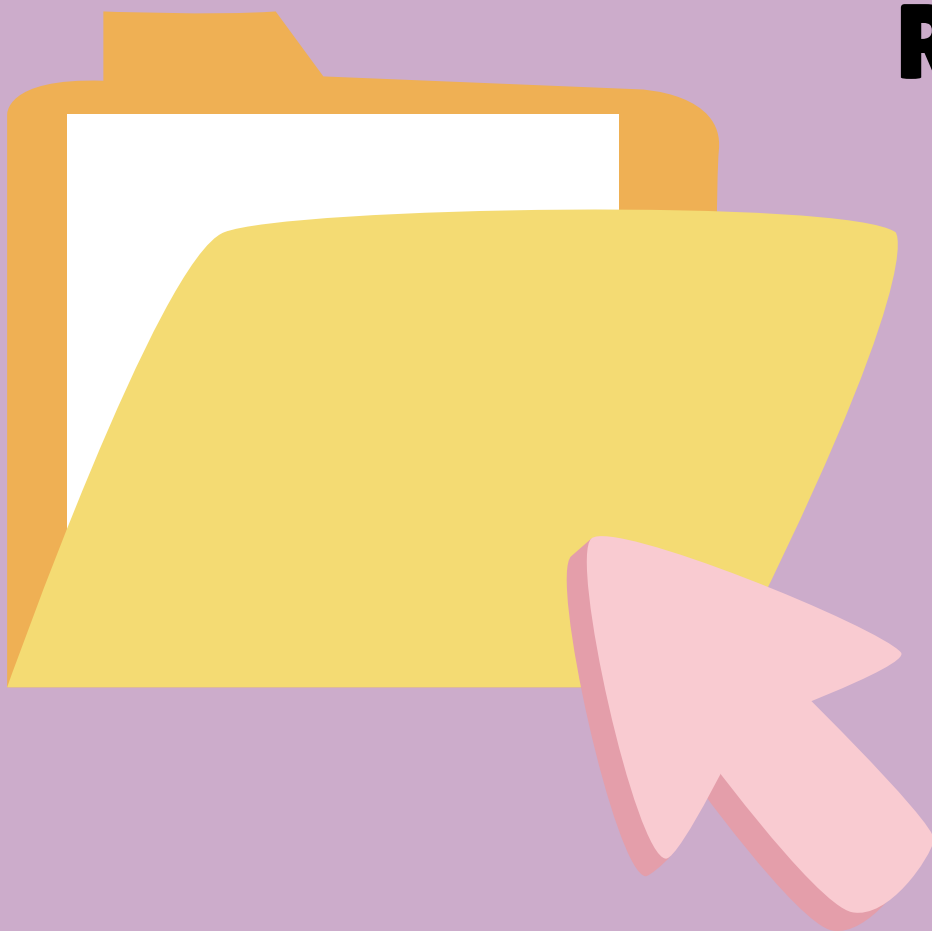


Research shows that queer youth **know and feel that they are queer before they have the vocabulary to articulate it** (and way before any adults in their lives know.)

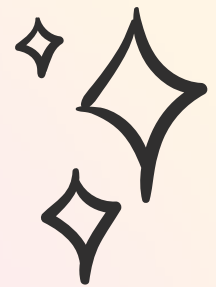
THE ROOTS OF PREJUDICE

- **If** someone is too young to see *queer representation*,
- **but** they are not too young to see *straight representation*,
- **then** this implies that there is something inherently sexual or abnormal about queerness.

This **harmful ideology** harkens back to the times of queer panic, when queer men were socially demonized (i.e. **incarcerated** and **labeled** as pedophiles or sexually deviant) for having *consensual sex with adults*.



**REDUCING QUEER
IDENTITIES TO
SEXUAL
BEHAVIOR
PERPETUATES
HARMFUL
STEREOTYPES.**



QUEER YOUTH DESERVE REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNITY.

It's up to us to *support* them, *protect* them, and give them the *access* to the gender affirming care that they deserve.





Growing up, it is important to see yourself reflected in the world around you.

This is how we grow and learn and feel like we can find our place in the world.



Arthur.



Baymax!



Stephen Universe.

CITATIONS

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<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/shannonkeating/coming-out-as-gay-in-elementary-school>
- Robinson, C. H. (2021). *Representation Matters*. *The Mall*, 5(1), 5.
- Robinson, K. H. (2002). *Making the invisible visible: Gay and lesbian issues in early childhood education*. *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, 3(3), 415-434.