

A national study of youth in grades 8 through 12 found that **79%** of trans students who had been the victims of physical harassment reported that teachers and staff were ineffective in addressing transphobic harassment.

(Peter et al., 2021)

## Adults Supporting 2SLGBTQI Youth

Every supportive adult can be a vital resource when supporting Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and Intersex (2SLGBTQI) youth. Taking on the active role of an affirming adult can be vitally important compared to other lukewarm tolerances 2SLGBTQI youth may encounter. Healthy and affirming conditions must be fostered **actively**, and in doing so, all youth, regardless of identity, will benefit.

### Key principles:



**Reinforce** rights and denormalize violence and harm



**Be explicit** about your support



**Commit** to continuous learning



**Foster** optimal conditions for self-development



**Recognize** your influence, both direct and indirect



**Receive** feedback with humility and accountability

## Example concrete actions:

- Correct others when you hear them misgender or misname someone (you should ideally have this person's consent to do so beforehand).
- Assure youth that they can come to you for open, non-judgemental conversations and support about their identity, or on any related matter (bullying, relationships, questioning, development etc.); listen actively and find out what support looks and feels like to the person you are supporting.
- Using gender neutral language (e.g. they/them pronouns) to refer to someone whose gender you don't know (until you do know).
- Respect self-identified names and pronouns; ask for these and share your own to normalize this practice.
- Take note of questions you still have about 2SLGBTQI identities and experiences so you can identify and pursue further knowledge and skills.
- Learn so you can teach – spread your new knowledge, skills and attitudes far and wide; access and share educational materials.

## Additional resources

- [Glossary of Terms](#)
- [Inclusive and Affirming Language](#)
- [Pronoun Usage Guide](#)
- [The Genderbread Person](#)
- [Supporting Your Gender Diverse Child](#)
- [Supporting Your Intersex Child](#)
- [Tips on how to practice 2SLGBTQI allyship](#)
- [What to do when your child comes out to you](#)
- [Faith and 2SLGBTQI Youth](#)
- [A Guide to Virtual GSAs](#)
- [Preparing students for the transition of a peer](#)
- [Second national climate survey on homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia in Canadian schools](#)
- [Tackling anti-2SLGBTQI cyberbullying in schools](#)