



Rhode Island Hospital
Hasbro Children's Hospital
A Lifespan Partner

The Gender and Sexuality Program is a team of pediatric and behavioral health providers committed to providing care and support for children and adolescents who are exploring gender identity. The program is housed in the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Hasbro Children's Hospital. The providers at our clinic recognize that over the past few months there has been an increase in disparaging and invalidating social messaging, political campaigns, and even proposed legislation in some states targeting youth who identify as transgender and gender diverse. Family and community support are essential to a child's development. We recognize how such targeted and hateful rhetoric can adversely affect the emotional and physical health of young people and their families, particularly those who may already feel stigmatized or unsure of themselves.

The Gender and Sexuality Program is committed to providing gender affirmative care through a multidisciplinary approach utilizing expertise and resources from Hasbro and Bradley Hospitals in order to support each individual's development and health related to their sense of identity. We believe that gender and sexuality are important aspects of everyone's identity that are explored throughout development, especially during adolescence, and with the support of family. Our program provides a safe environment, education, and access to specialty medical care drawing upon current evidence-based practices and the unique needs of each individual child.

If you have questions about the Gender and Sexuality Program, then you can reach us at 401-444-5980. If you, your child, or your family are struggling during this time, then please be aware of the following resources:

Kids' Link, a free, confidential local service that connects parents and caregivers to an experienced clinician that can help them access children's behavioral health services in Rhode Island and determine the best place to go for treatment and counseling. 1-855-543-5465, or <https://www.lifespan.org/centers-services/kids-link-ri>

PFLAG, <https://pflag.org/family>, an organization providing peer-to-peer support, publications, toolkits, and other resources to make sure that the family members of people who are LGBTQ+ get the support they need in the way that best serves their needs. The Providence chapter can be reached at www.pflagprovidence.org, 401-307-1802, or pflagprovidence@gmail.com.

Youth Pride, a local organization dedicated to meeting the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults while working to end the homophobic and transphobic environments in which they live, work and play. 743 Westminster St., Providence, (401) 421-5626, Info@youthprideri.org

Trevor Project, a national organization where youth can reach out for immediate access to a counselor if they are struggling, find information, and get the tools needed to help someone else. www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help, 24/7 Hotline 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678-678.

Rhode Island Hospital
Department of Pediatrics
Division of Adolescent Medicine

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