

## What?

Today's education is the reproduction of society as long as we don't change the way we educate our kids and the information we teach. Therefore it is highly important to think about new educational ways where our students are challenged to form their own opinions instead of being passive, normalized subjects of our teachers, rulers and authorities.

**Question: Do you think that it is possible to change? ...**

Answered with no	Answered with yes
You're maybe part of the problem and definitely not part of the solution. Just another passive, non-thinking human being, as a result of today's educational system. You will be a servant of the norms.	Perfectly! You'll be part of the solution for the problem, as the decisions of tomorrow's society are in your hands!

The generation of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Even if society of today (the 'nice old-fashioned world') don't admit you to question its perfection, your act could dare to change whatever you could imagine. Then, a better society will be in your hands.

Lack of belief in a changeable world will cause a continuing conserving of the heteronormativity, homophobia and hatred to any minority in your society. Means, tools and methods which bring you to the final end of getting a better world, achieving the aim you defined and struggle for, is called education. Could you ever imagine that school and society are in your hands?

So, as we said, to change the world, we need to change our educational ways. Therefore we are presenting you a few examples of educational activities that'll give you an idea how education can actually help changing the world, instead of enforcing the queer-problems.

## Why?

All societies are shaped by education be it formal, informal or non-formal education.

- Informal education is the learning that arises by sensing your surroundings, listening to the stories of your grandparents, and experiencing the living environment etc.
- Formal education is consciously shaped by official authorities (e.g. the government) to promote specific ideas and knowledge.
- Nonformal education is the volunteer learning in groups by giving and getting knowledge and skills to each other.

### Socialist Education

The aim of Socialist education is to enable every person to think critically, independently and freely about himself/herself and society. The best way to achieve this aim is by nonformal education. Capitalism doesn't question power structures and only critical, independent and free people can develop their societies towards equality and justice between all people.

### LGBTQ

Concerning LGBTQ-issues we have to understand the connection between capitalism, competition and oppression. Capitalism forces people to compete, alienates individuals from each other and doesn't provide any room for looking critically at formal and informal discrimination in society.

***„Socialism understood as education, as creation of new human beings which want to change their lives will create a new world, will create Socialism.“***

free adapted from Kurt Löwenstein

## How?

Education is everything what is helping you or others to gain relevant information, get knowledge, understand a issue, offering answers, solving problems or even brings you and others more close to the better world we all dream.

More or less structured process of learning which could look slightly or completely different as we experienced in our school days. Lets move forward more creative, respectful to other opinions, views and ideas.

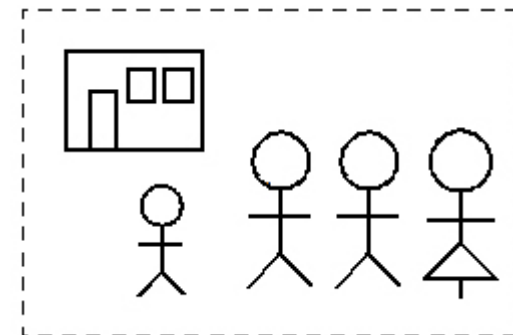
We can be:

- LISTENING (teacher, simply assimilating informations, memorising them, in classical way)
- QUESTIONING (opportunity to ask, searching for answers, dialogue)
- TRAINING (individual needs of learners were addressed, focusing on specific goals)
- DISCUSSING (communication skills needed, interaction, confronting, looking for arguments)
- ANALYSING (issue, problem, looking for solutions)
- MEDIATING (to solve conflicts of groups with external and skilled mediator)
- FACILITATING (be like catalysing tool in effective learning, understanding, decision making by participants, building relationships)
- LEADING (moving forward, inspiring, delivering skills, abilities and capacities)

On the end of our different colourful journey we aim to reach the goal and create a completely new reality.

**Creative Working Group**

# Kids, Queer & Education



**by Chen, Naomi, Mya, Vlad, Jean-Micheal,  
Miki, Irina, Aska, Lloyd, Simon**

**Kurt-Löwenstein-Haus, Queer Easter 2009**

## Questions

**Answer the questions as the character in the story by yourself and then go in to group to discuss your answers – if you don't want to share anything that is fine just move on to another question.**

- What is happening with you are the moment? What feeling do you have, what for you think about yourself and how do you behave?
- What are you feeling as time goes by? What are you thoughts after a week, a year? Have they changed since?
- How do you feel about yourself?
- What do you want, what do you need?
- Have you changed your behaviour since? How? have people changed how they deal with you?
- What do you think of other people, family, friends and other purpies?
- How do you feel if you are now called a purpie, what do you say/do?

**Now answer these questions as yourself?**

- *Does this story relate to any experiences you have had?*
- *How can it be related to being LGBT (Lesbian Gay, Bisexual Trans)*
- *How do you think society is similar to the one in the story?*
- *Do you think that story is useful in show how people are socialised in to prejudice.*

## LGBT education – coming to reality

**Read the following text as if you were young again and experience what happens in the story. If at any point you are upset or want to leave the room, just stop and ask.**

**Read it quietly to yourself.**

You are 5 years old and you are exploring the world. You already know that if the grown-ups get angry at someone they call that person “a Purpie”/ While on the bus with your parents, you overhear two passengers talk about a person who gave them the wrong change: “what a Purpie! You cannot expect anything good from such a person”.

You hear your grandparents talking furiously about a politician they dislike: “she’s a purpie! Nothing more than a Purpie! Playing with other kids in the playground, you accidentally bump against a girl who cries: “Are you a Purpie or what! You hurt me!” Another time you are teasing a friend with some other kids and you are shouting: “Tom is a Pur-pie, Tom is a Pur-Pie!” and Tom is shouting while trying to catch you “you are lying, you are lying”. At home your sister gave you less cake than she took for herself. This made you angry and so you shout: “You awful Purpie! I hate you!” – these words perfectly express your feelings at the time. When you parents hear what you have just said, you get a harsh telling off: “Never, ever call anyone ‘a Purpie’ This is very, very rude, if we ever hear you talking like that again, you will be punished!”

From now on you don't use the word when your parents are around, but hen you get irritated by somebody, you whisper angrily: “it’s a Purpie, an awful, ugly Purpie!” and when somebody calls you that name, you explain angrily: “You’re a Purpie yourself!”

As time goes by, similar situations are happening again and again. You are 12 years old and you already know that purpies are clumsy individuals who should not be allowed to work in some professions such as medicine or You read that some people claim to be born that way and that it is extremely resistant to therapy, has a strong tendency to reoccur and some believe that it is incurable. You lean that – as what you have already heard

science. That's they you strongly approve of what your mother reports to your farther: that her colleague working as a nurse had been fired when it turned out he was a purpie. You also know that people become purpies because of bad parenting and that purpies should be put in to prison or other correctional institutions. At least they should have therapy to become normal people.

Once you hear your parents talk to their friends: "so this is how children are being raised these days! Moral decline and so called 'modern parenting' ... .. and that is where the purpies come from. If it goes on like this, soon our children will have no one to play with. We must protect our children from such people". You totally agree. Your parents care about you so much! Of course, you dont ever want to play with any awful purpies! Recently you heard on TV that purpies have established their own association and they demand to be treated "with dignity", as though they weren't clumsy individuals. You find it ridiculous and you strongly disapprove of it.

You are 13 years old and your classmate punches your arm and teases you with a nasty smile: "Hey you are a purpie, aren't you? The girls said that you were tripping over when we played ..." (indeed you were last time, but doesn't everyone sometimes? That's nature of the game). "Ouch" - you exclaim as you have been punched straight on the bruise on your elbow - "you are a purpie yourself! Get lost!"

You are 14 years old and one day you are feeling so board at a party at you aunt's (who is a doctor). On a bookshelf you come across an old medical encyclopaedia your aunt used while she was a student and you start to browse though it in order to kill time. Accidentally you notice an entry: "PURPIE". You get interested, because this is the first written resource n the subject you have ever seen. You read:

*PURPIE - a purple bruise on an elbow that becomes visible by the age of adolescents. It differs from typical bruises in that once it has appeared; it will not disappear within a month and will remain permanently. It is the result of bad parenting, meaning that it will appear if parents fail to prevent it.*

The story of childhood

- people suffering from this disease, often called "purpies" have a tendency to clumsiness. They don't deserve to be trusted and they shouldn't be allowed to work in certain professions such as medicine or science. However, you learn many of them have special preferences for those professions they are not able in issues of science..

You get increasingly alarmed as you slowly realise... .. you slowly pull up your sleeve and looked at your elbow: a big purple bruise is clearly visible, even more than last year when you noticed it for the first time.

The world goes on...



and Mya are special friends. You hope to know each other for the rest of your life.

➤ This instruction is repeated for the other couples.

5) You're now 20 and you realise that you love Jack. You're very happy and you know that you want to live together for the rest of your life.

➤ You can either marry them, live with them or stay in a loving relationship with them.

*At each stage you give the children the opportunity to act out the statement (Fancy dress, invent games, acting etc.).*

## Join our neighbourhood

**“all equal, all different”**

**Age:** 6-10 years old

**Aim:** to give an understanding that different families exist but that positive from diversity can exist. It is a way to counter heteronormativity in way that is understandable. Encouraging positive behaviour around different lifestyles and family units.

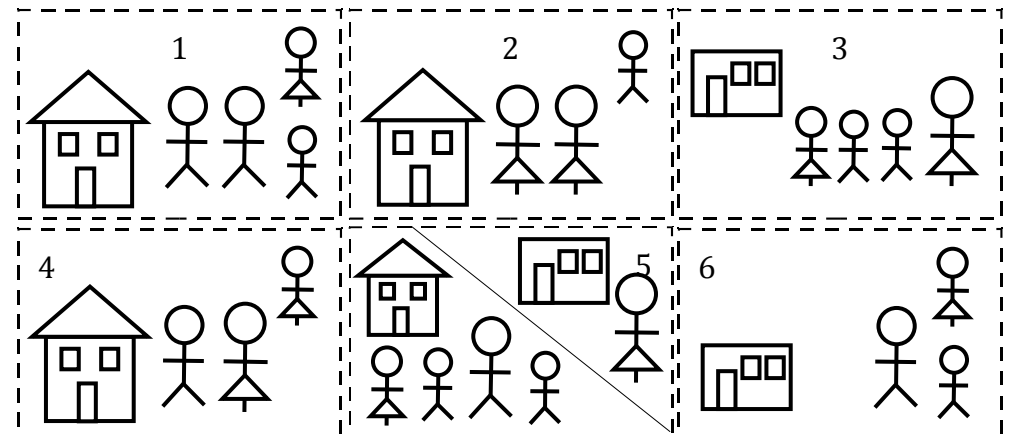
**Materials:** Printed papers with “families on it” (can be downloaded from [www.queereaster.net](http://www.queereaster.net)). Paper for drawing (enough for one each), colour pens, crayons and other colouring materials.

**Method:**

You should prepare the papers so that there one plain piece of paper and one piece of paper with a family drawn on it (see examples below).

Distribute these papers so that everyone has the two pieces of paper.

*Family patterns can be downloaded from ([www.queereaster.net](http://www.queereaster.net)) they can also be drawn out they should be:*



Ask the children to colour in the pieces of paper and on the blank one draw the family that they have.

Tell the story to the children explaining the situations of each of the families that they have coloured in.

## Story:

“ I have just moved to a new neighbourhood. It was very exciting and fun. I would like to tell you about it all and maybe you would want to join as well.”

## Families:

A family from Lebanon has two daddies and two children they bring amazing new food to the neighbourhood and teach everyone how to cook. A family from Japan, has two mummies and they have wonderful parties for all the parents and children’s every week.

A family from Spain has mummy with three children and a dog. The dog plays with all the children on the street.

A family from Holland has a daddy and a mummy and they have one child. They have a fantastic tree house and all the children like to climb it and play on it.

A family from Mexico has a daddy who lives with three children, while their mummy lives in another house the have some great games that everyone can play.

A family from Turkey has a daddy and two children they bring new music the neighbourhood.

A family from Israel has two daddies and one mummy and a child. They have brought new festivals and customs to the neighbour.

Ask the children “Would you like to join our neighbourhood”

As them to stick their papers on the sheet with the pre-drawn pictures, as they do this they should each describe their family and what they could bring to the neighbourhood?

Depending on the age of the children it would be an idea to ask the children what they notice different in the neighbourhood. You could ask them to say what would make them want to move to the neighbourhood.

*Explain there are different kinds of families and that we need to accept everyone. There is something good, positive and special about everyone.*

## Love and Diversity-Theatre

**Age:** 10-13 year olds

### Aim:

- To change negative attitudes towards LGBTQ-people
- To create a positive and accepting attitude towards everyone (Difference is normal – culture is diverse)
  
- It's a story told through acting (with audience participation)
- Discussion
  - The discussion takes place after finishing the story. Let the children ask all the questions they want so they have no doubts or misunderstandings.
- Introduction to true meanings of terms:
  - Homophobia
  - Gay
  - Lesbian
  - Transsexual etc.

### Story:

- 1) Your name is Jack, you have five good friends, they are all wearing brightly coloured hats (find them).
  - This instruction is repeated for Mya, Bill, Ben, Sophia and Lucy.
- 2) You are seven years old, playing a game together (football, dolls etc). Bill and Jack are best friends. Lucy and Mya are best friends. Ben and Sophia are best friends.
- 3) (Mya and Lucy) You are now 12 years old. You have friends that are boys, but you prefer to spend time with each other. - Repeated for Bill and Jack.
  - (Ben and Sophia) You have friends that are both boys and girls, but you prefer to spend time with each other.
- 4) You're now 16 and learning lots about the world around you. You