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Towards a national strategy for improving gender inclusion across formal and informal STEM education





Our Unconscious Bias:

- Normal, natural, quick and effective at helping us navigate the world
- Rooted in our background, cultural and environmental experience
- At the core of understanding where our stereotypes come from
- Effects our decision making and impacts those we engage with







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Inspiring the Future – Redraw the Balance Credit: The Education and Employers Taskforce, and MullenLowe London









Key influencers: Parents



Campaign for Science and Engineering (2014) PISA/OECD data (2012)





Key influencers: Teachers



Improving Gender Balance -Reflections on the impact of interventions in schools Institute of Physics (2017)

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Think about your language "guys" "man-made" "housewife"



Break stereotypes

Associate female with scientist Emotional with intelligence Boys with calm

Stay practical and Hands-On It is a great way for all to learn

Slow down

Give yourself time and allow for less confident children to put themselves forward

What Works in Shows?

Your unconscious bias is easier for your colleagues to spot!

Maintain eye contact move around and consciously make sure you encourage and give attention equally

Practice demos and rehearse

Bad habits will surface when you are under pressure

Check all your written and visual promotion, content and resources use diverse examples

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Gender Imbalance is Common Chemistry is an exception!













How would you adapt your show?









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Further reading:

"Improving Gender Balance" Institute of Physics, 2017

"Not for people like me?" Professor Averil McDonald, 2014

"Science Centres effectively engaging under-represented groups" Dr Penny Fidler, 2014