

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

*I Can Read! I Want to be a Doctor* (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Laura Driscoll, Copyright 2018

Rating: 5 out of 8 stars



Met criteria = 1

Did not meet criteria = 0

Egregiously did not meet criteria = -1

| What to look for  | Example(s)   | Rating | Explanation of rating and recommendations   |
|---|--|--------|---|
| <p><b>Did the author tell the entire story without mentioning gender? (Just by mentioning gender we communicate that it's someone's most important quality and activate stereotypes.)</b></p> | <p>No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc. (A person's name is not counted as a gender reference in this criterion.)</p>   | 0      | <p>Gendered terms are used: mom, dad, brother, and man (instead of parent, grown-up, sibling, etc.).</p> <p>Gendered pronouns are used.</p>                                       |
| <p><b>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</b></p>  | <p>No pink, bows, or exaggerated eyelashes, etc. on girls. No blue, ball caps, etc. on boys, (Length of hair alone is not enough to exclude a book from this criterion. Authors often want/need to differentiate between characters. Hair is one way to do this that is less</p> | 0      | <p>All females in the first hospital-waiting-room picture are wearing dresses or skirts.</p> <p>The doctors, nurses, and other medical staff, however, are all wearing pants.</p> |

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|   | <i>loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i>  |   |  |
| <i>Is there counterstereotyping? (Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i>  | <i>Are stereotypes challenged by showing the opposite? Examples are showing a boy happily cuddling a baby or a girl swinging a bat with expert skill.</i>                         | 1 | <p><i>The dad is shown holding and comforting Jack.</i></p> <p><i>Of the six doctors featured in the story, three are women.</i></p> <p><i>On the back page, nine doctors are featured. Five of them are women.</i></p> <p><i>The book would be even better with some male nurses.</i></p> <p><i>Great that different skin colors are present.</i></p> |
| <i>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration? (Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i> | <i>Are girls and boys both shown using tools while building something? Do they smile at each other? Do they treat each other like a peer (and not an/a inferior or superior)?</i> | 1 | <i>We can create this by expanding on the illustrations in the book. There is a female doctor and a male doctor conferring over an X-ray. the lab has more than one doctor present, and so on.</i>   |
| <i>Does the girl character have agency?</i>   | <i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i>                                 | 0 | <i>While the main character is very curious and engaged, she does not demonstrate agency. The story moves forward mostly because of the kindness and initiative of Dr. Tate and some of the other doctors.</i>   |

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| <p><b>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</b></p>                            |  | <p>1</p> | <p><b>Equality:</b> Although no male nurses are featured, equality is represented among the doctors.<br/> <b>Contribution:</b> The main character and the doctors want to help others with their health concerns.</p> |
| <p><b>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</b></p> |  | <p>1</p> | <p><b>The main character is a girl. The story is told from her perspective. The book would be better if we learned her name. Her sibling (a boy) is featured frequently and we learn his name is Jack.</b></p>        |
| <p><b>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</b></p>   |  | <p>1</p> |   |



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