Name(s)	Project Number
McKenna L. Goodson	**J0410**

Project Title

Occupation Fascination: A Study of Gender Role Stereotypes in Young Children

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
The purpose of this experiment was to investigate gender role stereotypes among young children. It was hypothesized that if the gender of a child affects whether he or she will draw a picture of a male or female in a certain professional role, then more males will draw a man and more females will draw a woman in the role.

Methods/Materials
Fifty kindergarten children were asked to draw figures of a veterinarian and a karate black belt, two professions typically populated by males. They were given 15 minutes to draw with assorted crayons on white paper. After they had finished their drawings, they were asked to name each figure. The pages were then collected and analyzed to determine the gender portrayed in the drawings.

Results
When the drawings were analyzed, the results showed that 24 out of the 25 girls drew female veterinarians, and 16 out of the 25 boys drew male veterinarians. Only one boy drew a female black belt, and 17 out of the 25 girls drew female black belts.

Conclusions/Discussion
To summarize, the girls tended to draw females in those professions, and the boys tended to draw males in those professions. Even though the hypothesis in this study was supported, it remains unclear whether the boys were acting on stereotypical beliefs of gender roles, and whether the girls showed more flexibility in their gender stereotypes.

Summary Statement

When asked to draw occupations typically populated by males, I found that five to six-year-old girls drew females while five to six-year-old boys drew males.

Help Received

My teacher gave me feedback and advice on written aspects of my project. I had adult helpers and teachers in the Kindergarten classroom assisting me with managing the students during my visit.