

A Summary of “Growing Up Male or Female”

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Author Note

This paper was prepared for UP Research Writing, Sections A & B, taught by Hannah Murphy.

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In the article, “Growing Up Male or Female,” Williams, Brown and Hood (2012) describe the different ways children learn their gender roles based on society’s expectations. Williams, Brown and Hood (2012) state that from the beginning of life, children learn their gender roles, or how they are supposed to act and think according to society’s rules, through socialization. Socialization is the way in which standards of behavior and societal values are transmitted (Williams, Brown, & Hood, 2012). This socialization begins at home and is transmitted through the parents. Differential treatment of young girls and boys teaches them their expected behavior and gender roles. For example, girls learn to be dependent on others and are given dolls to play with while young boys are encouraged to be independent and are given trucks and building blocks to play with. This process of socialization continues as children grow up. Peers, parental expectations, and school serve to reinforce gender roles. Recently, however, some parents have started to raise their children in a gender-neutral way. This proves to be difficult because parents must constantly fight against the gender stereotypes that are portrayed in the media and at school.

References

Williams, J., Brown, K., & Hood, S. (2012). *Academic encounters* (2nd ed.). New York, NY:
Cambridge University Press.