

Cultivating Affirmation and Belonging for LGBTQIA+ Youth

Amanda Erickson (she/her)
Director of Education & Outreach



Kaleidoscope Youth Center is the largest and longest serving organization in Ohio solely dedicated to serving and supporting LGBTQIA+ youth.

Our mission is to work in *partnership* with youth to provide safe and inclusive spaces in our drop-in Center, in schools, and in our community.

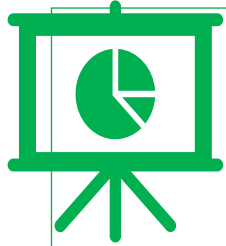
Drop-in Center Programming (currently virtual, ages 12-20)

Education & Training Program (currently virtual)

KYC Connections Program (ages 16-24)



Context



Historical inequality of sexual rights



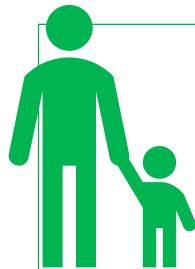
History of mental health treatment



Discrimination's effects on young people



“-isms” in systems and institutions



Adulthood

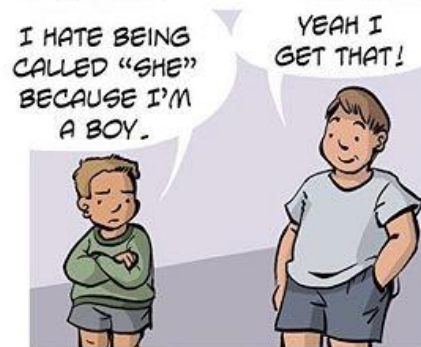
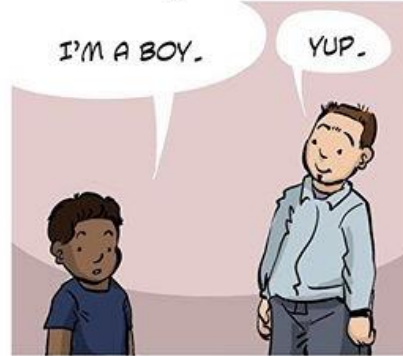




SELF-AFFIRMATION

for cisgender kids

for transgender kids



Sophie



Today's Agenda



Warm up your imagination!



A vertical bar on the left side of the page, composed of horizontal stripes in the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink, light blue, brown, and black.

Experiences of LGBTQ+ Students

School Climate in Ohio

Kosciw, J.G., Greytak, E.A, Zongrone, A.D., Clark, C.M., & Truong, N.L. (2018). *The 2017 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth in our nation's schools*. New York: GLSEN.



Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination in Ohio Schools

LGBTQ+ students in Ohio are regularly prevented from:



Expressing public displays of affection (PDA) in school



Using the bathroom that aligns with their gender



Using the locker room that aligns with their gender



Using their chosen name or gender pronouns

Kosciw, J.G., Greytak, E.A., Zongrone, A.D., Clark, C.M., & Truong, N.L. (2018). *The 2017 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth in our nation's schools*. New York: GLSEN.



Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination in Ohio Schools

LGBTQ+ students in Ohio are regularly prevented from:



Wearing clothing considered inappropriate for their gender



Including LGBTQ+ themes in extracurricular activities



Discussing LGBTQ+ issues in assignments



Wearing LGBTQ+ supportive apparel

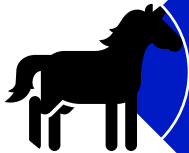


Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination in Ohio Schools

LGBTQ+ students in Ohio are often:



Unable to bring a same-gender date to a school dance



Unable to form a GSA



Prevented or discouraged from playing school sports due to an LGBTQ identity



Disciplined at school for identifying as LGBTQ



Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination means:

- more missed school
- lower GPAs
- lower self-esteem

Source: 2019 National School Climate Survey
Learn more at [glSEN.org/nscs](https://www.glsen.org/nscs)

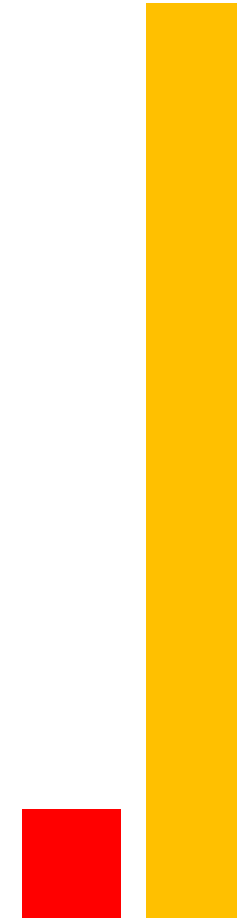
GLSEN[®]



Suicide Risk

LGB youth who come from **highly rejecting families** are **8.4 times** as likely to have attempted suicide as LGB peers who reported **no or low levels of family rejection**.

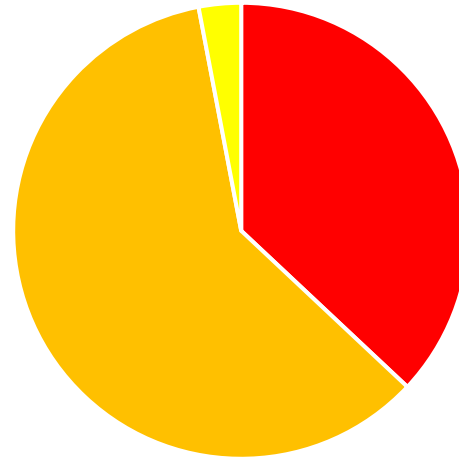
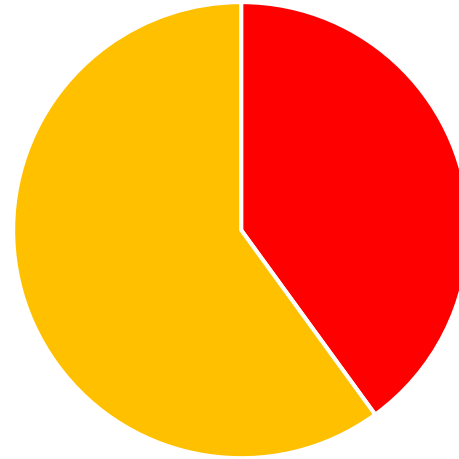
Each episode of LGBT victimization, such as physical or verbal harassment or abuse, increases the likelihood of self-harming by 2.5 times on average.



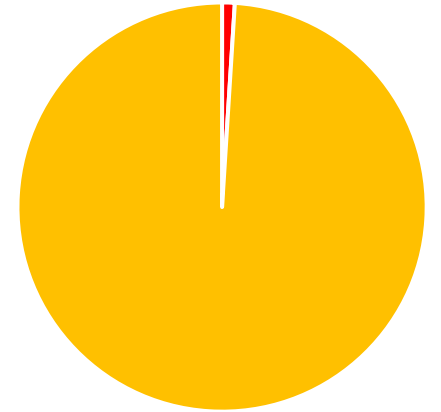
Suicide Risk

In a national study, **40% of transgender adults** reported having made a suicide attempt.

92% of these individuals reported having attempted suicide before the age of 25.



Compare that to the general population, where somewhere between 0.5% and 1.5% of adults have made a suicide attempt.





But what does “supportive”
look like?



Creating Inclusive Environments

Diversity Within
Community

Support
Students

Don't Make
Assumptions

Gender
Neutral
Language

Call Out
Negative
Behavior

This is Not a
Taboo
Topic!



When Someone Comes Out



Thanks for trusting me!



Is this something I can talk to others about?



How can I support you? What support do you need?



Normalize Pronoun Use



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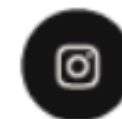
Amanda Erickson

Education & Training Manager

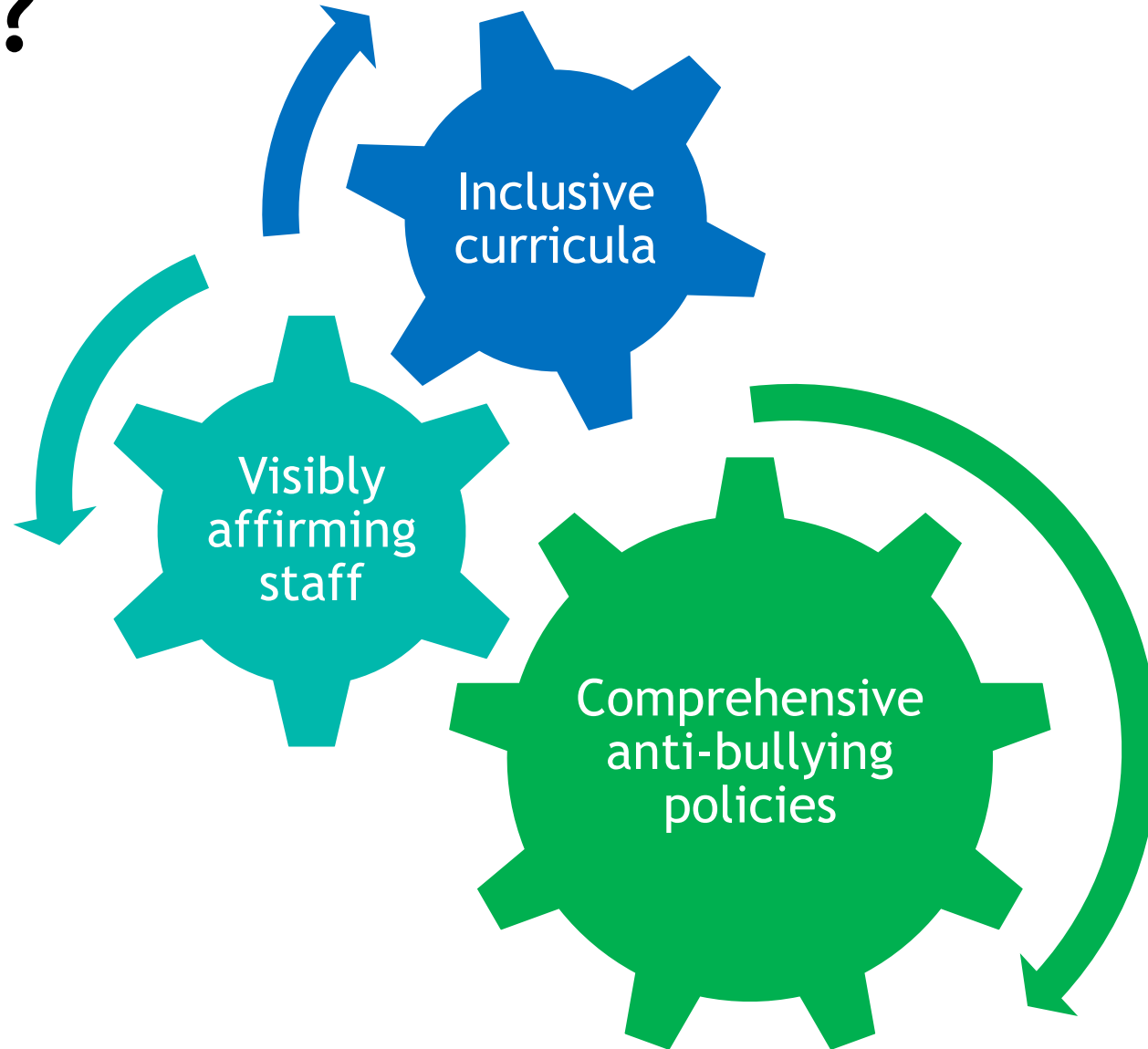
pronouns: she/her/hers



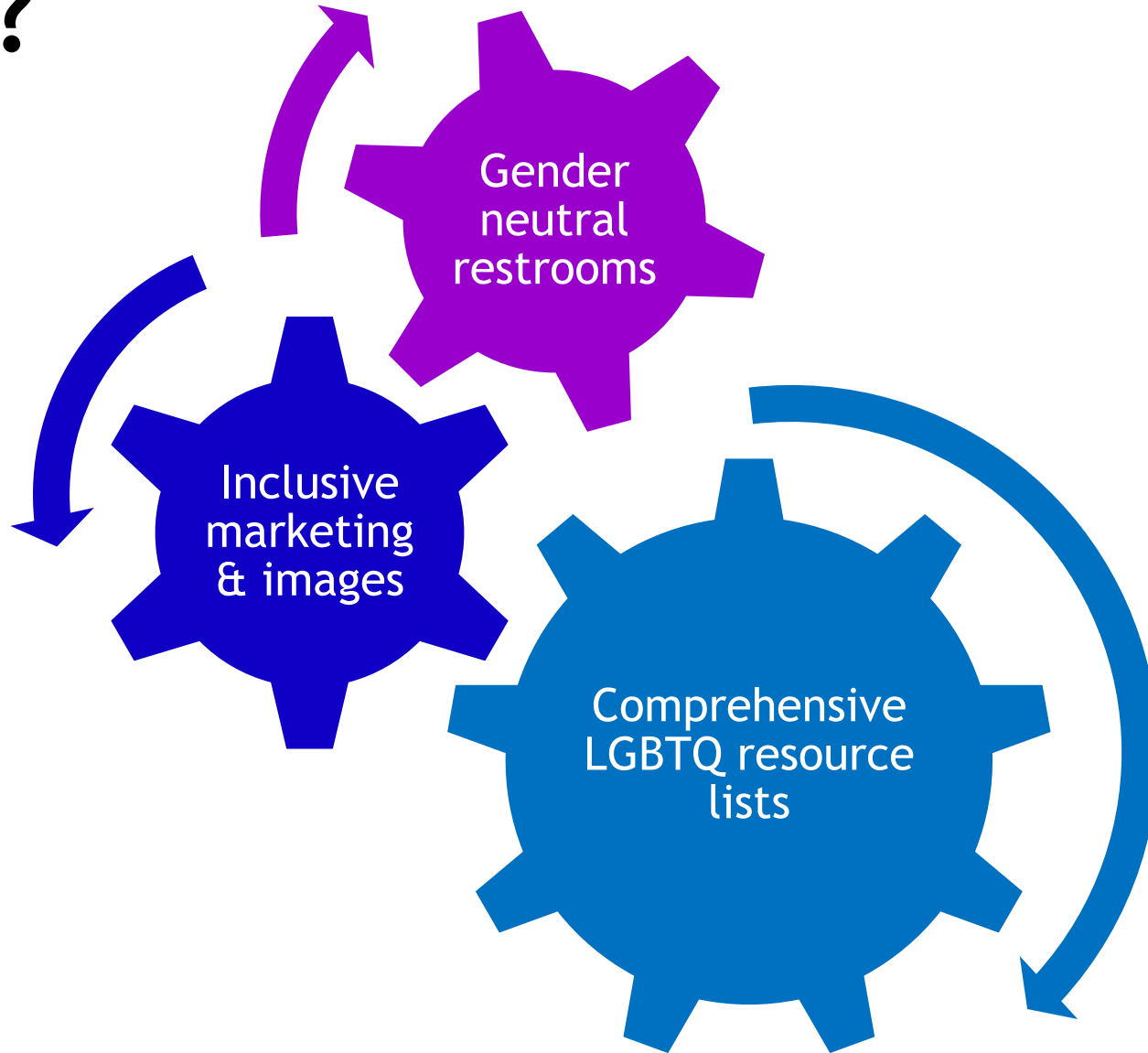
PO Box 8104
Columbus, OH 43201
(614)-294-5437
www.KYCOHIO.org



But How?

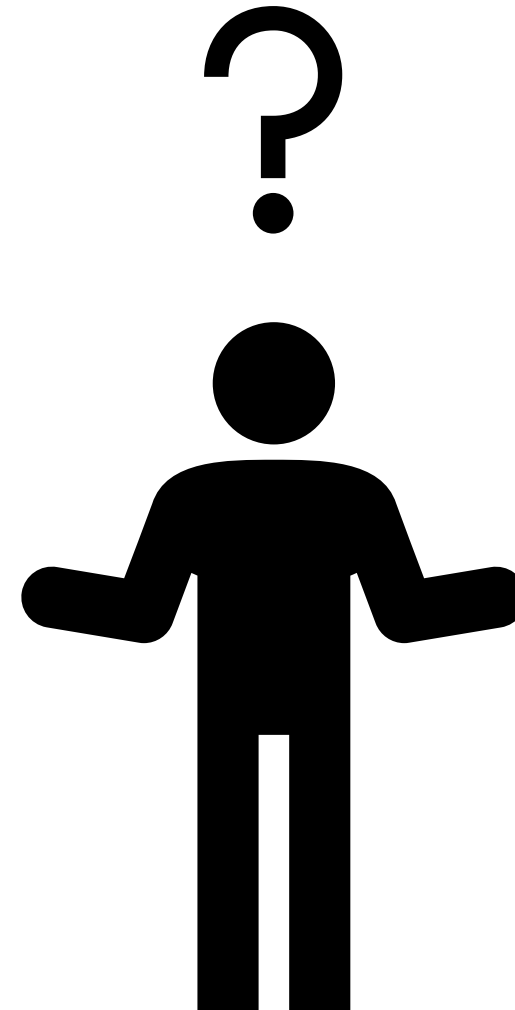


But How?



The Importance of Being a “Visible Ally”

“The counselors at my school have never said whether we can come to them about LGBTQ subjects or not. So you really don’t know if they are well educated about the LGBTQ community.”



The Importance of Being a “Visible Ally”

“At school, I have been bullied and called slurs by other students. When I asked the principal to help my situation, he laughed at me and told me I was overreacting... I find it extremely hard to trust the adults at my school because they more than likely share the same opinions.”

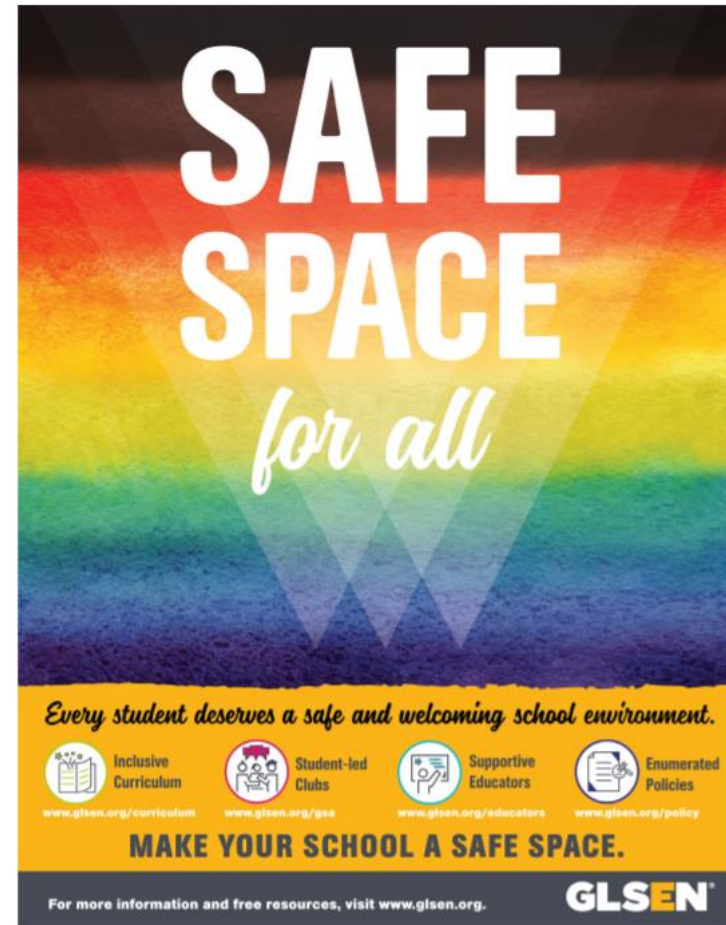


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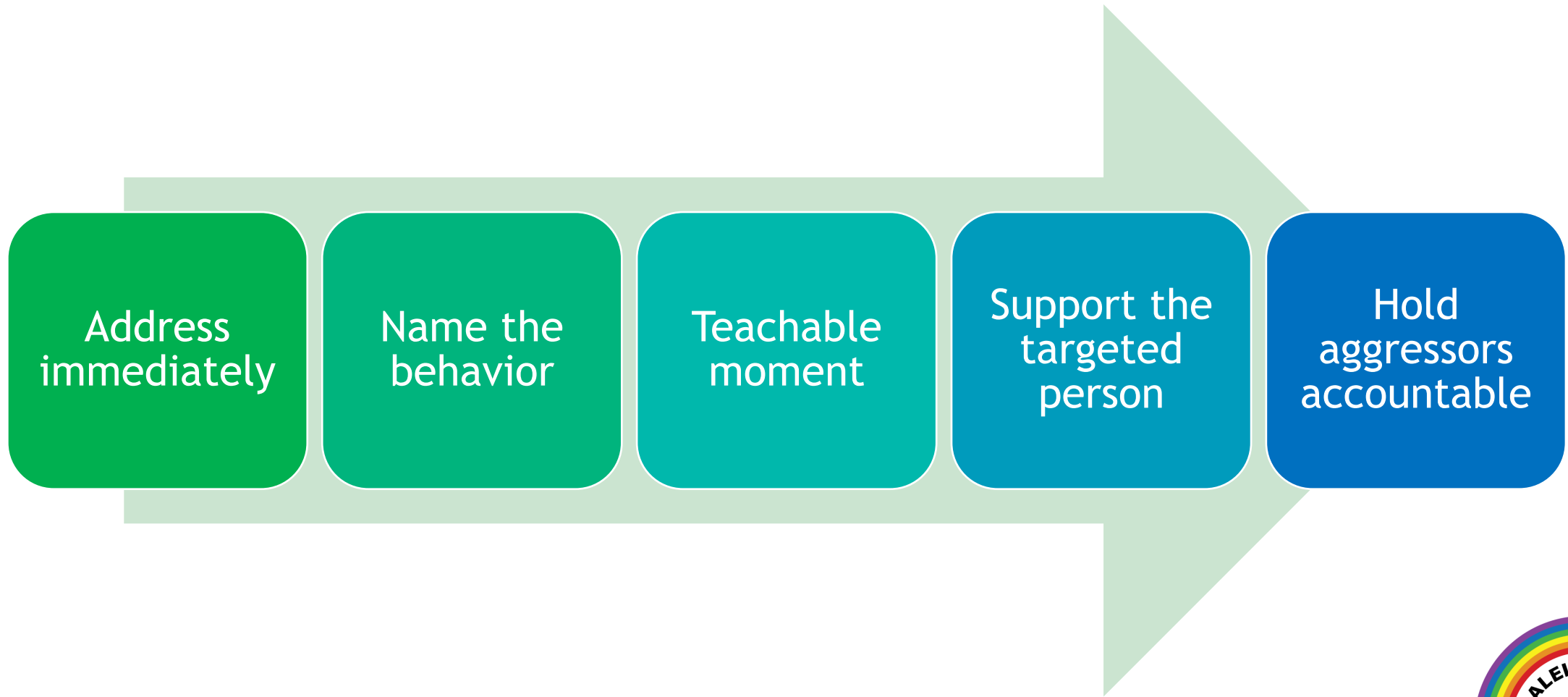


The Importance of Being a “Visible Ally”

“I know my school is generally accepting. The GSA gave out safe space stickers to all the teachers and most of them put them up, so I know I won’t be judged for talking about my identity.”



How to Intervene



Virtual Learning Considerations

Student Name

Student Email Address


Pronoun Fields

Being on Screen



slido

What are some individual changes you can resolve to make moving forward?

 Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

LGBTQ+ students feel safer and more supported with:



Comprehensive anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies



Teachers and school staff who are supportive of LGBTQ students



Gender and Sexuality Alliances



An LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum



Contact Info

Kaleidoscope Youth Center

614-294-5437

kycoho.org

    @kycoho

Amanda Erickson

Director of Education & Outreach

amanda@kycoho.org

linkedin.com/in/abuchert

