

## How To Show You're Gay-Friendly

### ✓ **Say the Words**

Use the words "lesbian," "gay," and "bisexual" without it being a big deal – work them into your casual conversation. Mention gay people in a positive way. Talk about gay-related history, current news, or media events.

### ✓ **Keep your language free of heterosexual bias**

Using inclusive language is hard work at first. It involves a shift in how you think about things. It is more than just changing certain pronouns and phrases. For example, it reveals a straight bias to ask a young woman if she has a boyfriend, instead ask if she is dating or involved with anyone.

### ✓ **Display gay-positive materials**

Hang a rainbow flag outside your door, post news clippings, set out informational pamphlets and flyers in easily accessible places.

### ✓ **Be prepared for inquires**

When people ask you about the flag, or the poster, be ready to explain its meaning. You may also get asked if you are gay. Whatever your answer, offer it without embarrassment and make yourself available for future discussion.

### ✓ **Come Out**

If you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender yourself, come out as much as you can in as many situations as possible. This may be the *most* important thing you can do to make the world a safer place for gay kids. If you have a transgender, bisexual, lesbian, or gay family member, talk openly about that person.