

15 Things I Want You to Know about my Daughter

- 1) She has the most gorgeous hair of anyone I know. Seriously, I wish I had her hair. She likes to dye the tips purple.
- 2) Purple is her favorite colour. Unicorns are her favorite animal. She also likes rainbows and butterflies.
- 3) When she was born we thought she was a boy.
- 4) As soon as she was old enough to talk she told us that we were wrong, that she was a girl. At first we didn't listen. We thought it was a phase.
- 5) It was not a phase.
- 6) She is 13 now and a happy, if sometimes surly, teenager
- 7) On the day she finally began to live her life fully as a girl her little brother cried. He was afraid that now she wasn't his brother anymore, she would no longer play with him.
- 8) She still plays with her brother.
- 9) Like all children in her situation, she does not take hormones. She is too young. She does take a hormone blocker though, which prevents her from starting puberty. This buys her time until she herself is old enough to make an informed decision whether or not she wants to start taking hormones.
- 10) When she began attending school as a girl not a single classmate had any trouble with it. Some asked questions. They all pretty much just accepted her.
- 11) When she began attending school as a girl the parents of some of the children in her class had a problem with it. They didn't want her using the girl's bathroom. They were afraid she might glimpse their daughters' private parts or their daughters might glimpse hers. So the principal told my daughter to only use the bathroom when there were no other girls in it.
- 12) My daughter felt humiliated. She had no interest in spying on the other girls to see what they look like under their clothes. She had no interest in showing them what she looks like under her clothes. She just wanted to pee. She spent the first two months of school not going to the bathroom at all.
- 13) Parents were given the opportunity to direct their children to use an alternate bathroom or change room if they were uncomfortable. They said that was not acceptable, that was segregation. They said my daughter should be required to use a separate facility. I said, no, that's not segregation. Segregation is when your child is required to use separate facilities whether she wants to or not.
- 14) These days my daughter uses the bathroom just like all the other girls. She changes in the girl's change room. She even went on an overnight camping trip with her classmates and stayed in the girl's tent. The sky has not fallen. The world has not ended. Nothing bad has happened.
- 15) She is a typical teenaged girl. She loves Lego and reading and complaining about how annoying her brother is. She loves unicorns and purple and sparkly clothes and her dog. She is my daughter and she is loved and accepted by her friends, her family, and her community. She thinks this is normal for transgender children like her. It should be.