



Anne Oakley

Gender roles refer to the expected characteristics and ways of behaving for boys and girls. Feminists argue that gender roles are not natural but are **socially constructed**. This means that they are shaped and defined by society and so may vary throughout the world. **Anne Oakley**, a **Feminist**, argues that the family starts off the process by socialising boys and girls differently. She argues that one way in which gender is passed on is through the toys that are given to boys and girls. These toys reflect the roles that are seen as suitable for boys and girls.

These toys encourage different qualities and behaviour and may affect how boys and girls see their future roles in society.

Look at the following toys. Consider the following questions:

1. Who are they aimed at?
2. Which qualities or behaviours might they encourage?
3. How might these affect their future roles in society?
