



*LGBT+ History Month 2024  
EYFS Pack*

Medicine #UnderTheScope

Shining the spotlight on:

*Sophia Jex-Blake, Cecil Belfield Clarke,  
Margaret Stacey, Ewan Forbes,  
& George Ward*

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# LGBT+ History Month

LGBT+ History Month is celebrated across the UK every February and was founded by Schools OUT following the repeal of Section 28 to highlight LGBT+ History. This year's theme is:

## Medicine - #UnderTheScope

The 2024 theme celebrates LGBT+ peoples' contribution to the field of Medicine and Healthcare both historically and today.

We want to showcase the amazing work of LGBT+ staff across the NHS and in other healthcare settings, in providing healthcare, especially during the pandemic. Whilst still shining a light on the history of the LGBT+ community's experience of receiving healthcare which has been extremely complicated leaving LGBT+ people still facing health inequalities even today.

You can find resources to help you celebrate on our website: [Schoolsoutuk.org](https://Schoolsoutuk.org)  
Or follow us on our Twitter accounts: [@SchoolsOUTUK](https://twitter.com/SchoolsOUTUK) [@LGBTMH](https://twitter.com/LGBTMH)

We do hope you will join Schools OUT in celebrating UK LGBT+ History Month 2024.

Professor Emeritus Sue Sanders (CEO) & Lynne Nicholls (Chair)

Schools OUT are the UK's LGBT+ education charity #educatingOUTprejudice and #Usualising LGBT+ lives since 1974. We want to see a world where every LGBT+ person feels, safe, seen, and thrives in education and beyond.

# Queer Education Consultancy

Queer Education Consultancy was established by former teacher and deputy head teacher, David Church who has over 10 years' experience working in schools and supporting with equality, diversity and inclusion.

Queer Education's vision is to create a world where queer acceptance is part of the culture of education systems, from culture to curriculum.

By providing research-informed training and guidance, Queer Education aims to empower schools to embed LGBTQ+ diversity and inclusion so that everyone feels valued, supported and accepted.

It has been a privilege to produce this EYFS resource pack for UK LGBT+ History Month 2024, especially as a former primary science leader for many years! I hope you find it useful to support your journey towards usualising LGBTQ+ lives in the curriculum and culture of your setting.

You can find out more about our work, including CPD, consultancy and other resources by visiting our website [www.queered.co.uk](http://www.queered.co.uk), or following us on social media:

Twitter/X - [@\\_queer\\_ed](https://twitter.com/_queer_ed)

Instagram - [@\\_queer\\_ed](https://www.instagram.com/_queer_ed)

David Church (founder and director)

## Teachers' Guide - Sophia Jex Blake

Sophia Jex-Blake's story is a fascinating journey of determination and breaking barriers. This guide is designed to help EYFS staff explore Sophia Jex-Blake's life and achievements with their students, fostering empathy and an understanding of how we can all be different, but still live successful lives.



Sophia was born in 1840 in England, and she was a curious and smart young girl. She loved learning and dreamed of becoming a doctor, but back then, people thought that only boys could be doctors.

However, Sophia was not one to give up easily. She decided to challenge this. She worked hard and studied on her own, proving that girls could be just as smart and capable as boys. Sophia's determination caught the attention of other brave girls who shared her dream.

Eventually, Sophia fought for her right to attend medical school, and in 1869, she became the first woman to enroll at the University of Edinburgh to study medicine. This was a huge achievement, and Sophia didn't stop there. She went on to inspire more girls to pursue their dreams, breaking down barriers in the process, by establishing two medical schools - one in London and the other in Edinburgh.

Sophia Jex-Blake showed the world that everyone, regardless of gender, should have the chance to follow their passions and make a difference. She paved the way for many girls who dream of becoming doctors today.

## Teachers' Guide - Cecil Belfield Clarke

Cecil Belfield Clarke was a remarkable Barbadian-born physician who left his mark on the medical world. Born on April 12, 1894, and departing from this world on November 28, 1970, his life's journey was a testament to resilience, scholarship, and a commitment to social justice.



His educational journey began at Combermere School in Barbados. His pursuit of knowledge led him to win a scholarship to study medicine at the prestigious Cambridge University. Cecil arrived in London in 1914, just after the outbreak of World War I. At St Catharine's College, Cambridge, Cecil earned his degree in 1917, marking the beginning of a lifelong connection to the college. He worked as a GP in Elephant & Castle for over 40 years - even during World War II. Over the years, he acquired various qualifications, becoming a highly respected physician. Notably, he developed Clark's rule, a mathematical formula for calculating medicine dosage for children aged 2-17.

Cecil Belfield Clarke lived authentically as a gay man, a fact known discreetly due to the times he lived in. His lifelong partner, Pat Walker, played an essential role in his personal and professional life. After Cecil's passing in 1970, a blue plaque was placed near the site of his practice, honouring his legacy. St Catharine's College continues to award the prize he endowed, ensuring his impact endures.

## Teachers' Guide - Margaret Stacey

Professor Margaret "Meg" Stacey, born on 27 March 1922 in London, was a British sociologist. She attended the City of London School for Girls and graduated with a first-class honours degree in Sociology from the London School of Economics in 1943.



In 1961, Meg embarked on a new chapter in her career, joining Swansea University. During this time, she spearheaded the revolutionary research project "Children in Hospital," focusing on the well-being of children receiving medical care. She was also a pioneer in establishing medical sociology as a field of study, which means she looked at how our gender, race or education can affect our health). Meg later made history in 1974 by becoming the first woman appointed to a professorship at the University of Warwick, where she remained until her retirement in 1989. She also worked towards enhancing gender balance in academia. Her commitment to equality was evident in her mentorship and support for younger women colleagues. She married political scientist Frank Stacey in 1945, raising four children and a foster child.

Meg Stacey's life extended beyond her professional achievements. She shared her life with partner Jennifer Lorch, found joy in gardening, and developed a keen interest in Buddhism. Tragically, Meg Stacey passed away on 10 February 2004, leaving behind a legacy of groundbreaking contributions to sociology and a steadfast commitment to equality.

## Teachers' Guide - Ewan Forbes

Ewan Forbes was a Scottish nobleman, rural GP, and farmer who left an indelible mark on the course of trans rights in the UK. Ewan navigated a challenging childhood filled with gender insecurity, ultimately embracing his true identity as a man in the 1930s.



Ewan's upbringing in an aristocratic Aberdeenshire family presented challenges, but his mother's support and advocacy were pivotal. Despite being assigned female at birth, Ewan identified as a boy from a young age, earning the nickname "Benjie" and resisting societal expectations of dressing as a girl; he even attended medical school as male, even though this wasn't legally recognised.

In 1939, Ewan embarked on a medical career, graduating in 1944 and serving as a well loved GP by the community. In 1952, he took a historic step by legally re-registering his birth as male, adopting the name Ewan Forbes-Sempill. A month later, he married Isabella Mitchell, his housekeeper and former dance troupe co-founder.

The turning point came in 1965 when Ewan stood to inherit the baronetcy, facing a legal challenge to the validity of his gender re-registration. The subsequent lawsuit culminated in a 1968 ruling affirming Ewan's identity. His legacy extends beyond the courtroom, marking a pivotal moment in transgender rights.



## Teachers' Guide - George Ward

George Ward, born on 30 November 1993 in Darlington, County Durham, was a remarkable individual known by the stage name Cherry Valentine. Growing up in an English Traveller community, George faced the expectations of following a traditional career path as a mechanic, set by his father. However, George had different aspirations.



In a community where drag was not considered usual, George struggled with his identity. Coming out as gay to his parents through a heartfelt letter, George embarked on a journey of self-discovery and acceptance. Despite the challenges, George became the first in the family to attend university, studying mental health nursing at the University of Cumbria. George qualified as a mental health nurse in 2015 and, in 2016, began captivating audiences as Cherry Valentine. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he returned to nursing to support the NHS.

In December 2020, Cherry Valentine joined the cast of RuPaul's Drag Race UK. Despite an early exit from the competition, Cherry Valentine's impact endured. Post-Drag Race, his experiences were explored in the BBC documentary *Cherry Valentine: Gypsy Queen and Proud*, making him the first Drag Race contestant to acknowledge his Romani heritage. His openness about his Traveller heritage in the documentary shed light on the difficulties faced by the LGBTQ+ community within the Traveller community.

# Teaching Ideas

Role Play Display the posters (on the following pages) in your setting, perhaps in your role-play area. Encourage the children to look carefully. Example questions to ask: Do they look like a gp/nurse? Why? Why not? What clues can we see? Why might some of the photographs be in black and white?

PSHE Talk about George Ward during your PSHE time to focus on mental health. Explain how his job was to help our feelings and our emotions. You could discuss times when we all need help with regulating our emotions (this would like well to work you might be doing using The Colour Monster, or Zones of Regulation).

Continuous Provision Setup a tuff tray with items related to the medical profession (e.g. cotton wool, bandages, stethoscopes, x-ray images, child-safe syringes [see your science lead]) and toys/photos of different professionals working across the medical profession. This could include messy play using different liquids (such as water/shaving foam)

Across all activities, build children's opportunities for talk such as encouraging them to share ideas about what they want to be when they grow up. Remember to encourage discussion around gender roles and that our gender shouldn't stop us from doing something.

## EYFS Early Learning Goals Links:

### PSED

- Self-regulation - "show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly"

### Understand the World

- Past & Present - "talk about the lives of people around them and their roles in society"
- Past & Present - "know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class"

# Suggested Key Texts

Below are a selection of books you could use to discuss LGBT+ diversity throughout February and beyond.

Please do ensure you read any texts that are new to you and consider how best to use these before adding them to your book area, or sending home for children to read for pleasure.

- “Julian is a Mermaid” / “Julian at the Wedding” by Jessica Love
- “Jerome By Heart” by Olivier Tallec
- “Hello Sailor” by Ingrid Godon
- “King and King” by Linda De Haan and Stern Nijland
- “Introducing Teddy” by Jessica Walton
- “Red: A Crayon’s Story” by Michael Hall
- “10,000 Dresses” by Marcus Ewert
- “A Fox Called Herbert!” by Margaret Sturton
- “Friends” by Kathryn Cave
- “I Am A Rainbow” by Dolly Parton
- “The Feelings Book” by Todd Parr
- “The Boy with the Pink Hair” by Perez Hilton
- “It’s Okay to be Different” by Todd Parr
- “It’s a George Thing!” by David Bedford
- “Dogs Don’t Do Ballet” by Anna Kemp
- “Mister Seahorse” by Eric Carle
- “Spacegirl Pukes” by Katy Watson and Vanda Carter

# I can work in medicine too!



Cecil Belfield Clarke  
was a GP

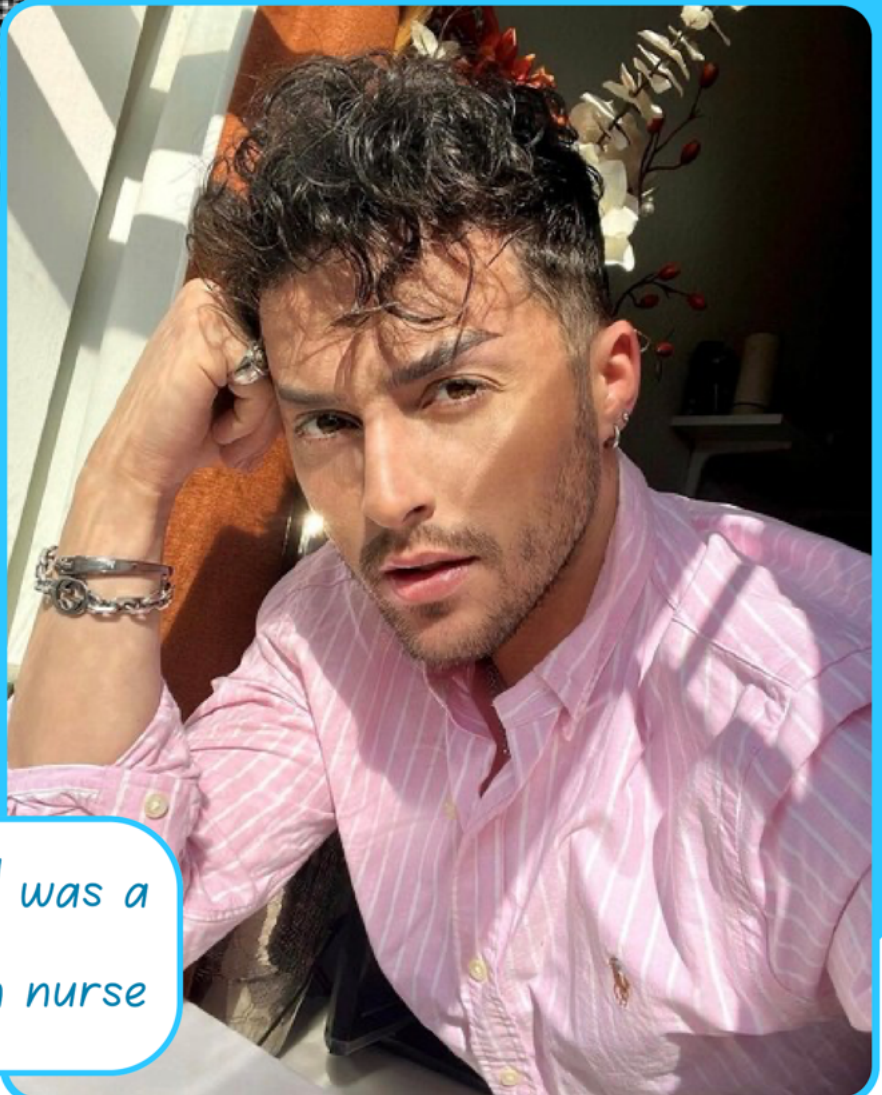


Sophia Jex Blake  
was a physician

# I can work in medicine too!



Ewan Forbes was a  
rural GP



George Ward was a  
mental health nurse

*I can work in medicine too!*



*Margaret Stacey was  
a medical sociologist*



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