Gender Awareness in ICT with Focus on Education

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Gender Awareness

• Interest

• Young Communication

• Pilot study
Gender Awareness

• Discourse on ICT
• ICT among young people
• Described in terms of how boys behave
• Need for gender to be an integral part of ICT discussion
Young Communication

• Collaborative project
• 3 universities in south-east Sweden
• 5 year: 2006 – 2011
Aims of Young Communication

• Improve ICT competence of teachers, student teachers and teacher trainers
• Bridge the gap between young people’s reality and schools
• Collaboration between schools and universities
Gender awareness in ICT with focus on education- approach

1. Are there differences and if so, what are they?
2. What does this mean for ICT in education?
   - Pilot study- April 2008
   - Main study- Autumn 2008
Gender awareness in ICT with focus on education- approach

- Bring results into schools
- Seminars
- Explore ideas with teachers and student teachers
- Reflection on current teaching in ICT
- Open forum for discussion and improved awareness
Target group

• South-east Sweden
• Lower secondary schools
• Upper secondary schools
• Age 13 -19 years
Pilot study

• One lower secondary class - 15 year olds
• One upper secondary class - 17 year olds
• Possible respondents – 50
• Actual respondents – 33
Access to computer and Internet at home
Attitudes

- Ratio of boys to girls who answered questionnaire. 2:1
Time spent on computer daily

- More than 2 hours per day
Gaming

Do you play games on the computer?
Types of games

Do you play action games on the computer?
Types of games

Do you play games like "The Sims"?
Chatting

Do you use the computer to chat?
Attitudes

• Boys believe they are better than girls at ICT
• Girls believe that boys are better than girls at ICT
Comments

• Boys:
• "Boys are more interested in computers”
• "Girls have no idea of what computers can do”
• "But some girls are good at computers”

• Girls:
• "Boys are more interested”
• "Boys play more games”
• "Girls can do as much as boys with computers”
Teaching of ICT

- My teachers are good at teaching ICT.
Indications from pilot study-summary

- More boys than girls answered
- Boys and girls believe that boys are better than girls at ICT
- Boys play more games
- Girls and boys chat
- Only 30% of girls think that teaching of ICT in schools is good
Questions?