RAISING COMPLEX KIDS CANADA
A companion to the video
"Social Transition: My Kid Asked for New Pronouns Because of a Pin at the Eye Doctor"

Where Do You Want This True?

Your child sets the pace. That's the rule. So the question to ask, every few weeks, is: **"Where do you want this to be true? Home? School? Grandma's? Online? Everywhere?"** And then you make it true exactly there, and nowhere else, until they move the line.

SOCIAL MEANS SOCIAL · NAME, PRONOUNS, CLOTHES, HAIR · NOT MEDICAL · NOT PERMANENT

How to use this page: ask when it's calm. Write where the line is today — the name, the pronouns, who knows — and the date. A child who says ***"just at school"*** or ***"just at home"*** is telling you exactly how much they can carry this year. Following means following. Even when you'd walk faster.

WHERE	WHERE THE LINE IS TODAY — NAME · PRONOUNS · WHO KNOWS	DATE ASKED
Home *parents, siblings, the house*		
School *the register, the class, friends*		
Family *grandparents, cousins, the wider family*		
Activities *the team, the club, the coach*		
Online *games, usernames — the rehearsal space*		
Documents *school records, health card, passport*		

Their line, not yours. If your kid has a different name online, that's not a secret. That's a rehearsal — trying it where it's safe first.

1 The slip-up contract — *say it to your child, out loud, in these words*

When we get it wrong, it is not malicious. It's human error. And we are constantly trying.

We accept correction when we slip. No argument, no long apology. And we ask you to correct us — every time. Years of the old name is a groove in your mouth; it does not fill in because you've decided it should. Practice and correction are the whole method. There isn't a shortcut, and it does stick.

2 Correct and move on — *the rule for the slip itself*

"She — sorry, they — want to go to the park." Three words, no drama.

Not a speech. Not "I'm so sorry, I'm trying so hard, this is really difficult for me." That makes your child comfort you for your mistake. And that's not their responsibility. Correct. Keep going. Every time.

3 When you're behind

They want the name everywhere, tomorrow; you're still slipping at breakfast. Don't stop them. Tell the truth about yourself: ***"I'm with you. I'm slower than you at this, and that's mine to fix, not yours. Give me a week on the grandparents and I'll do it right."*** You're allowed to need time. Not to make your time their problem.

4 When you're ahead

You've read everything, joined the group, want to tell the school — and your child says, ***"Can we just… not, yet? Just at school?"*** Listen to that. Push them out ahead of themselves — even lovingly — and you've taken the one thing this is supposed to give them: control over their own story.

A name isn't the top of a slide. It's a landing. Nothing about a name involves a doctor. Every item on the social list can be undone with a conversation and a trip to the store. Saying yes to the social things does not commit you or your child to anything medical. You can stand there as long as you both need.

Stick this on the fridge and revisit it every few weeks. The date column is the point — the line moves, and it's theirs to move.

For information only — not a substitute for care from your own physician. You already knew that.