Gender Role Socialization Study

How did you learn your gender? How did you learn what it was/is to be male or female? Certainly there is the biological aspect of sex identification as male or female – but most of our Gender Roles are socialized behaviors. What messages were you given by your microsystems, mesosystems, exosystems, and macrosystems? This assignment is an examination of these questions.

You will need to explore and comment on the following:

**Family Messages** – Think of your family of origin. Explore how you were taught gender roles. Consider the models of male/female in your family. Consider both the explicit teaching of roles and the silent messages of the roles you were taught. Would you have been, and are you, encouraged to explore a non-traditional sport, hobby, career, or interest? Why or why not? Give specific examples. (Hint: this section is about messages your family gave you.)

**Children’s Apparel** – Go to a department store and make your way to the children’s clothing department. Examine the clothing for boys and girls. Does the clothing allow for active play equally? What is the implied definition given for each gender based on the clothing? Why are they sold in separate areas? **Do not do a superficial look. Look deeply and critically.** (Hint: this section is about messages the store gives to society and you.)

**Media Advertisement** – examine advertisements in a variety of magazines, radio broadcasts, and TV commercials. How do companies use gender to sell products? What do these advertisements imply regarding male/female behavior? Attach a copy of a particularly gender biased ad from a magazine or publication to this paper. **Do not do a superficial look. Look deeply and critically.** (Hint: this section is about messages the media gives to society and you.)

**Toys** – Peruse the shelves of a toy store. Can you tell which toys are intended for boys and which for girls? How so? What kinds of experiences do the toys promote? Which toys are for active or quiet play? Are they sold to a particular gender? **Do not do a superficial look. Look deeply and critically.** (Hint: this section is about messages the media gives to society and you.)

**TV** – Watch a current sitcom or show in which a family is portrayed. Analyze the behaviors of the male and female characters. How are fathers, mothers, children portrayed? What messages does the show give about gender? Who does the caregiving for the children? Who disciplines the children? Who has power and how do you know? What does the power look like? Is it gender specific? Indicate the episode title and the show. **Do not do a superficial look. Look deeply and critically.** (Hint: this section is about messages the media gives to society and you.)

**Summary:** Then summarize your findings into a discussion of gender roles and values taught to children today as well as what you were taught as a child.

**NOTE:** This is an extensive look about gender role socialization. You should not simply answer the above prompts but critically look at the issue. Also, you need to make sure that your statements are supported with clear and accurate examples. I will be looking for your educated and thoughtful exploration of gender socialization. Your paper will most likely be several pages long.
Substantive – means that your assignment must have substance and be well developed and clear. Your assignment should show that you thought about your response and that you reflected your response. The gauging of whether an answer is substantive is at the discretion of the instructor.

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<td>Mostly substantive*; minimal grammar and spelling errors; presentation good</td>
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