

### Source 1

A study... found boys tended to be given toys that involved action, construction and machinery, while girls were steered towards dolls and perceived "feminine" interests, such as hairdressing. The message seemed to be boys should be making things and problem solving, and girls should be caring and **nurturing**.

Also, **stereotypical** 'boys' toys tend to be more educational. Boys toys tend to contain **didactic** information, with technical instructions and fitting things together with Lego and Meccano, whereas girls' toys tend to be around imaginative and creative play, which develop different skills.

Becky Francis, Professor of Education, Roehampton University

### Source 2

Child and family psychologist Margaret McAllister (says) there are more significant influences on a child's career choice than toys.

"It's a rather **superficial** approach and all too easy to say that if you encourage girls to play with cars and lorries, they are more likely to become engineers - there is no real evidence of this. It's also far too limiting and channelling of a child's experience - job prospects are a long way off from early play," she says.

### Source 3

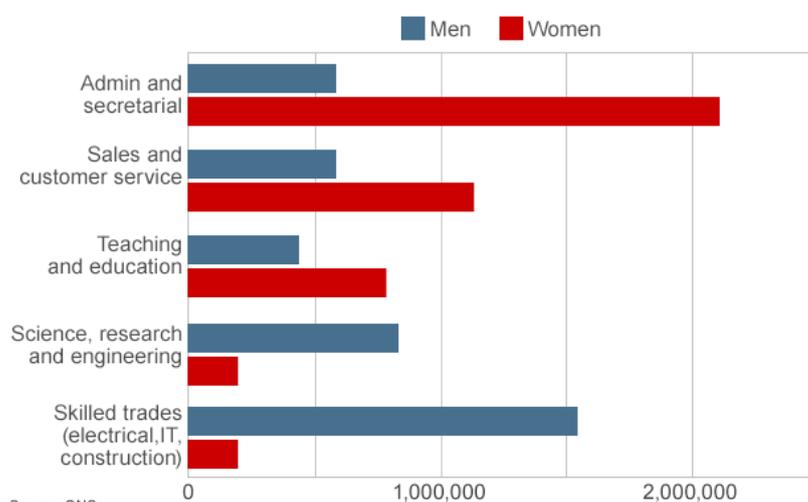
Good toys feed the imagination and provide the seeds for creativity, problem-solving and **persistence**. When you combine these **attributes** with a drive to change the world you get a great engineer.

Why would we restrict these opportunities to an **arbitrary subset** of children? Let toys be toys and let girls be engineers.

Anthony Finkelstein, Dean of Engineering, University College London

### Source 4

Occupations by gender in the UK, 2013



### Source 5



### Source 6

My daughter wiggles her backside at the merest hint of a beat. When she does there is a chorus or "oh, she's going to be a dancer!" I'd be proud of whatever she pursued with passion. But shall we see how she goes with a Bunsen burner too? My son, too loves to dance and sing. But it's his interest in mathematics that draws the most positive comments from adults around him.

Shappi Khorsandi, *Huffington Post*

### Source 7

There is a view that expressing concern over the **gendered** marketing of toys is **irrelevant** and **political correctness** gone mad. This view is 100 per cent wrong.

Toy marketing has an enormous impact on girls' attitudes – and, indeed those of boys – especially on their **perceptions** about science, technology, engineering and maths. We must address this if we are to address the serious **gender gap** in engineering and science subjects.

Sir Peter Luff, former MP for Mid-Worcestershire