

All: Lingokids.

Cowy: Lisa, want to kick the soccer ball together?

Lisa: No thanks. I don't feel like kicking the ball. I'm trying to get unconfused.

Presenter: What are you confused about, Lisa?

Lisa: It's something someone said. I don't get it.

Presenter: Huh? Well, what did they say?

Lisa: They said nobody cares about women's soccer.

Cowy: What?

Presenter: Welcome to stories for kids, by Lingokids where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of Playlearning.

Did you know there are more people than ever enjoying women's soccer these days? All over the world, people are watching the Women's World Cup, which is going on right now. Lisa is wondering how come everyone doesn't love women's soccer? Is that okay? Is it not okay? Why does it feel not quite right? Let's explore.

Lisa: Mmh.

Presenter: Lisa, I can understand why you're so upset.

Lisa: Thanks. Women's soccer is the coolest. Women's soccer is magic.

Elliot: I think so too. Women and girls are some of the best soccer players I know.

Cowy: Lisa, didn't you score two goals in your game yesterday?

Lisa: Yes, and I'm a girl. I'm great at scoring goals.

Presenter: It seems like we all agree that women and girls are great at soccer.

Lisa: Yes, but I don't get it. Why would somebody say that nobody cares about women's soccer?

Presenter: Well, one thing is, not everyone likes the same sports.

Lisa: I knew that.

Presenter: That's because people have different interests.

Lisa: Yes, but it feels icky, and sad, and not fair. Why does it feel that way?

Presenter: I think it's hurtful when someone doesn't like the sport just because of who is playing it.

Lisa: Ooh, yes. That's the reason.

Presenter: If you like watching soccer games, you should enjoy seeing Elliots or girls play.

Elliot: Or Both.

[Billy whistling]

Presenter: Great point, Billy. Anyone can be a soccer champ because soccer is about kicking the ball. Not about which kind of person is kicking the ball.

Kids: Yes.

Presenter: Whoever said that nobody cares about women's soccer might have some old-fashioned ideas.

Elliot: What's an old-fashioned idea?

Presenter: Old-fashioned. It means, ideas from a long time ago that don't necessarily fit in today's world. You know, there didn't used to be women's soccer teams at all.

Lisa: Oh, that's terrible.

Presenter: There were even some countries where women weren't allowed to play soccer.

Cowy: I don't like that.

Presenter: Yes. In old times, lots of sports were mostly for men to enjoy.

Lisa: Ooh.

Presenter: Times have changed a lot. Now Lisa can play soccer or participate in competitions. Women's soccer champs are helping this change happen faster and faster.

[Billy whistling]

Presenter: Billy says, women's soccer is now popular all over the world. You're definitely not alone if you love women's soccer.

[Billy whistling]

Presenter: He says, the Women's World Cup this year has 32 teams competing, which is more teams than ever and more people than ever will be viewing it too.

Lisa: I can't wait to watch because I want to be just like my hero. Sam Kerr.

Elliot: Who is that?

Lisa: She is a striker. That's a soccer position that shoots a lot of goals. She will be playing in the Women's World Cup this year. She is the captain of Australia's

national team, The Matildas.

Cowy: The Matildas?

Lisa: Yes. Sam Kerr scores tons of goals for the Matildas. She has already been in the Women's World Cup and the Olympics lots of times.

Cowy: Wow.

Lisa: She likes to do back flips.

Elliot: Sam Kerr sounds cool. Can I watch Sam Kerr in the Women's World Cup this year?

Lisa: Yes. Want to watch together?

Elliot: I would love to watch.

Cowy: Me too.

Lisa: Okay. First everyone stay right here. I'm grabbing my soccer ball. Who's open?

Elliot: Me. I'm open. Yes. Got it. Cowy, coming your way.

Cowy: Got it. Now to you Billy. Oops. Sorry Billy.

Lisa: Billy, you're not quite Sam Kerr, but I still like playing with you.

[chuckling]

Presenter: Lingokids listeners, thanks for celebrating women's soccer with us. We learnt some history and got to see how far we have come. We love soccer and all the people who enjoy playing it. See you at the Women's World Cup.

The Lingokids team is going to take a break, but we promise it won't be long. You won't even notice it. We will be back and meet you at the same place, same time on your favorite podcast platform.

[music]

[00:05:45] [END OF AUDIO]