

Gender & Sexuality Diversity Books: Pre-School & Elementary Age Children

Youngest Kids (0-5)

Bedtime for Baby Teddy (0-3) Tamara Arc-Dekker

A gentle bedtime storybook for young children of lesbian parents.

Everywhere Babies (2 and up) Susan Meyers

Babies of every hue, body type and hairstyle, the illustrations show traditional, single parent, gay/lesbian and multi-ethnic families.

One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads (2-6) Johnny Valentine

A light-hearted book about parents who are different.

ABC A Family Alphabet Book (2-6) Bobbie Combs

Learning the alphabet with pictures of LBGT families.

123 A Family Counting Book (2-6) Bobbie Combs

Learning to count with pictures of LBGT families.

Mommy, Mamma and Me (2 -4) Leslea Newman

A board book about a toddler's day with two moms.

Manu, No! No, Manu! (2 -3) Lucia Moreno Velo

A bilingual board book about a toddler who wants another treat.

One Hundred is a Family (2-5) Pam Munoz Ryan

As readers count from 1 to 100, seeing many types of families doing things together: working, playing.

And Baby Makes 4 (2-5) Judith Benjamin

A playful photo essay of a family getting ready for a new baby. Two moms explain to their daughter what to expect from a baby. Helpful read for any child waiting for the arrival of a sibling!

Felicia's Favorite Story (2 and up) Leslea Newman

A bedtime story about adoption by two moms.

Monicka's Papa is Tall (2-6) Heather Jopling

Monicka's Papa and Daddy are different in many ways. See how their family puzzle fits together!

Ryan's Mom is Tall (2-6) Heather Jopling

Ryan's Mom and Mummy are different in many ways. See how their family puzzle fits together!

How My Family Came to Be- Daddy, Papa and Me (2-6) Andrew Aldrich

A story about adoption, two fathers and an interracial family.

We All Sing with the Same Voice (2-6) P. Miller and M. Sheppard

A Sesame Street song that's been transformed into a bright picture book, depicts children of all colors and nations playing, singing together... "you might have two dads, you might have one..." CD included.

The Family Book (3-6) Todd Parr

Typically silly and reassuring, Parr celebrates all kinds of families.

We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families (3-6) Todd Parr

A sensitive, colorful description of how adoptive families come together.

At My House What Makes a Family is Love (3-6) Dee Dee Walter-Goodspeed

Lots of different family configurations, all of them built on love.

Young Kids (3-8)

Best Best Colors/Los Mejores Colores (3-6) Eric Hoffman

A story about having "more than one" favorite color, best friend, mom. English/Spanish

The Many Colored Love/El Amor de Todos Los Colores (3-6) Lucia Morena Velo

Maite was born from the many colored love; now her moms are expecting again. English/Spanish

And Tango Makes Three (3-7) Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

A fantastic picture book that tells the true story of two famous gay dads - penguins Roy and Silo- from New York's Central Park Zoo.

The Different Dragon (3-8) Jennifer Bryan

This bedtime story about bedtime stories shows how the wonderful curiosity and care of a little boy, with some help from his willing moms, can lead to magical and unexpected places.

Asha's Mums (3-6) Rosamund Elwin

A field trip permission slip sparks a lively discussion at school about families.

Young Kids (3-8) continued

Ballarino Nate (4-8) Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Kindergartner Nate sees a ballet performance while on a school field trip and decides to become a dancer. His older brother tries to dissuade Nate, because “boys can’t be ballerinas.”

I Look Like a Girl (4-8) Sheila Hamanak

Exuberant girls burst both the limits of the page and confines of traditional expectations, imagining life as free and wild as that of a tiger, dolphin, mustang, wolf.

The Not-So-Only-Child (4-8) Heather Jopling

A wonderful addition to the all-kinds-of-families genre. Larissa, an only child, describes her big, diverse extended family: married couples, singles, grandparents, aunts, uncles, pets.

Hello, Sailor (4-7) Ingrid Godon

A simple story about the loving bond between two men. Some will see the men as friends; some will see the men as intimate partners. Kids will see and be curious about what they need to!

Antonio’s Card/La Tarjeta de Antonio (4-8) Rigoberto Gonzalez

A Mother’s Day story featuring Antonio, his Mami and Mami’s partner Leslie. English/Spanish

Priscilla and The Pink Planet (3-6) Jocelyn Hobbie

In the rhyming style of Dr. Seuss, Priscilla grows tired of a singular color and searches for others.

Molly’s Family (4-8) Nancy Garden

Getting ready for Parent’s Night in Molly’s kindergarten class prompts everyone to consider what different families look like.

Uncle Bobby’s Wedding (4-7) Sarah Brannen

A very gentle tale about a young guinea pig named Chloe preparing for her Uncle’s wedding.

The Sissy Duckling (3-8) Harvey Fierstein

Elmer is not like other boy ducklings and is teased for his love of baking and decorating until he teaches a life lesson to the whole flock about embracing the special qualities we all possess.

Mom and Mum are getting Married! Ken Setterington

Rosie tries to figure out what her role will be in this special celebration.

Saturday is Pattyday (4-7) Leslea Newman.

An important story about what happens to a young girl when her two moms separate.

Oliver Button is a Sissy (4-7) Tomi dePaula

Friends and family learn to appreciate Oliver’s love for music and dancing.

The Princesses Have a Ball (4-7) Teresa Bateman

A mystery ensues when the princesses keep wearing out their shoes. Think basketball!

White Swan Express (3-6) Jean Okimoto

In China four baby girls wait in an orphanage while four families (including a lesbian couple) in North America prepare for the exciting trip to bring them home.

Emma and Meesha My Boy (3-6) by Kaitlyn Considine

Emma learns from her two moms how to care for Meesha Kitty.

My Really Cool Baby Book (5-7) Todd Parr

A wildly nontraditional record book, this one is designed especially for a child to fill out, with bright colors and lots of choices about parents, pets, friends, relatives and things they like.

Who’s In A Family? (3-6) Robert Skutch

A picture book depicting all kinds of families, human and animals - step, divorced, extended, gay, lesbian, multi-ethnic - all happy.

Max the Stubborn Little Wolf (3-7) Marie-Odile Judes

Papa Wolf is horrified when tiny Max declares his intention to become a florist when he grows up and tries everything he can to change his son.

My House (5-7) Brenna & Vicki Harding

An easy reader that features bright pictures and a two "mum" family.

Koalas on Parade (5-7) Brenna & Vicki Harding

An easy reader that features bright pictures and a two "mum" family.

Young Kids (3-8) continued

Buster's Sugartime (4-8) Mark Brown

Based on the t.v. series, Buster goes to Vermont, visit lesbian moms and their three kids and learns about mud season and maple syrup.

Tanny's Meow (4-7) Ursula Ferro

A two mom family moves to a new town and discover a kitten waiting for them. (chapter book)

Wishing for Kittens (5-8) Ursula Ferro

In this sequel to *Tanny's Meow*, Rachel and her family decide to let Tanny have kittens. (chapter book)

Mother's Day on Martha's Vineyard (7-12) Ursula Ferro

Third book in the series has Rachel, her brother, two moms visiting grandparents. (chapter book)

Pet of My Own (5-8) Ursula Ferro

The latest book from Ferro focuses on Rachel's friend, Gabe, who has two dads and is longing for a pet of his own, especially now that he has a new baby sister. (chapter book)

King & King (3-6) Linda de Haan

The queen decides it is time for the prince to marry a princess but the prince has other ideas!

King & King & Family (3-7) Linda de Haan

The Kings come home from their royal honeymoon with a surprise from their jungle adventure.

William's Doll (4-8) Charlotte Zolotow

What happens when a boy challenges gender roles?

Odd Boy Out (5-8) Don Brown

A look at young Albert Einstein and his difficulty fitting in.

Amazing Grace (4-8) By Mary Hoffman

Grace loves acting out stories, but when classmates tell her she can't play Peter Pan because she is black and a girl, important lessons are learned all around.

Pinky and Rex and the Bully (5-8) by James Howe

When a bully tells seven-year old Pinky that his nickname and favorite color are "girlish," he must decide whether it's time to change or to stand up to his tormentor.

Fire Engine for Ruthie (4-8) By Leslea Newman

Ruthie and her Nana find they like to play with different things, and Nana discovers that girls can love fire engines and motorcycles as much as girls love dolls and dress-up.

Mini Mia and Her Darling Uncle (4-8) By Pija Linden Baum

Favorite Uncle Tommy has a new boyfriend, and Ella is not happy about sharing her uncle!

Horace and Morris but mostly Dolores (4-8) By James Howe

These 3 adventurous mice are tested when a "Boys Only" club changes the rules of their friendship.

Yoko (4-7) By Rosemary Wells

Yoko's heritage and lunch are "different" from her classmates. A not heavy-handed story about the challenge of developing genuine respect for one another's differences.

In Our Mother's House (5-8) By Patricia Polacco Well-known children's book author captures the concentric circles of a multi-racial, multi-generational lesbian family.

And to Think That We Thought We'd Never Be Friends (3-7) Mary Ann Hoberman

This Seussian style tale begins with a brother and sister fighting and ends with the whole wide world in an exuberant parade of peace and friendship.

Pugdog (3-8) Andrea U'Ren

Pugdog loves to drool, chase squirrels and romp in the mud. When the owner discovers that "he" is actually a "she," Pugdog gets an (unsuccessful) make-over that is driven by gender stereotypes.

Weslandia (4-9) Paul Fleischman

Wesley isn't like other boys, a fact that drives his parents mad and invites the torment of his peers. Resilient and creative, Wesley invents his own civilization which others eventually want to join.

Rough, Tough Charley (5-9) Verla Kay

Charley Parkhurst was one of the most respected stagecoach drivers in the old West. Charley also kept one of the biggest secrets anyone could keep - he was a woman in disguise.

Pink! (5-9) Lynne Rickards

What's a penguin to think when he turns pink? Patrick the penguin is different and must contend with those who do and do not accept him, as he searches for a place to fit in.

Elena's Serenade (4-8) Campbell Geeslin

In this story set in Mexico, a young girl longingly watches her papa blow into a pipe to create bottles, and dreams about doing the same. Papa disapproves, because of her size and gender.

10,000 Dresses (4-8) Marcus Ewert

Every night, Bailey dreams about magical dresses. Unfortunately, when Bailey's awake, no one wants to hear about these beautiful dreams. "You're a BOY!" Mother and Father tell Bailey.

Rotten Richie and the Ultimate Dare (5-9) Patricia Polacco

Sibling rivalry takes an interesting turn when Trisha and her brother enter into a double dare that entails trying each other's favorite activity. Trisha learns how brutal ice hockey is; Richie understands true ballet.

My Princess Boy (A mom's story about a young boy who loves to dress up.) Cheryl Kilodavis

A nonfiction picture book by a mother about her 4-year-old son, who happily expresses his authentic self by happily dressing up in dresses. There are good moments and hard moments with friends, family, school, shopping A story about the importance accepting kids for whoever they are and however they wish to look.

Not-So-Young Kids (8-13)

Box Girl (8-10) Sarah Withrow

Clara adjusts to the absence of her mother and the presence of her father's new male partner.

The Case of the Stolen Scarab (8-12) Nancy Garden

When Nikki and Travis and their moms buy an inn in Vermont, the mystery begins.

The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans and Others (5-10) Johnny Valentine

Delightful fairy tales, various family constellations and non-preachy message that being different is okay.

The Trouble with Babies (8-12) Martha Freeman

Holly moves and makes new friends, one of whom has two dads and one who has a baby in her family.

The Harvey Milk Story (8 and up) Kari Krakow

A picture book biography about the first openly gay elected official in the U.S.

My Two Uncles (8-12) Judith Vigna

Elly learns about prejudice when her 2 favorite uncles aren't invited to a family party.

Skull of Truth (8-12) Bruce Coville

A wisecracking skull from a magic shop compels people to tell the truth, including Charlie's favorite uncle.

Holly's Secret (10 and up) Nancy Garden

A poignant coming out/love story for girls.

A Clear Spring (10 and up) Barbara Wilson

Eleven-year old Willa spends the summer with her aunts, Carmen and Ceci where she develops a passionate interest in nature and gets involved in some "eco-sleuthing"!

Faerie Wars (10 and up) Herbie Brennan

Henry learns his parents are separating because his mom is in love with another woman. A snappy blend of fantasy, mythology and science.

The Misfits (12 and up) James Howe

Much-taunted middle schoolers run for Student Council on a platform against name-calling of all kinds.

Totally Joe (12 and up) James Howe

A sequel to *The Misfits* that features the coming-of-age and coming out of exuberant, original Joe Bunch.

So Hard To Say (12 and up) Alex Sanchez

The bubbly Latina, Xio, and the new boy in school, Frederick, become friends who try to navigate the confusing social and emotional terrain of 8th grade.

Erik and Isabelle, Freshman Year at Foresthill High (12 and up) Kim Wallace

The first in a realistic series that portrays LGBT youth during adolescent journey for acceptance.

From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun (12 and up) by Jacqueline Woodson

How does Melanin react when his mother tells him of her love for another woman? His journal reveals many lessons in sacrifice, prejudice and love.

Parrotfish (13 and up) by Ellen Wittlinger

Angela becomes Grady in this warm, poignant story about a young transgender teen finding himself and facing family, friends, and high school.