



## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN HIGHLIGHTING ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES

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### FAMILIES

Sandra Cisneros, *Hairs / Pelitos*, Dragonfly Books, 1997 (Pre-K – 1).

A young girl describes how each person in the family has hair that looks and acts different. The paintings reflect the diversity among the family and personalities. Bilingual.

Margy Burns Knight, *Welcoming Babies*, Tilbury House Publishers, 1998 (K – 2).

Shows the diverse ways we treasure new life around the world — different countries, different religions and different families.

Pat Mora & Paula S. Barragán (Illustrator), *Love to Mamá: A Tribute to Mothers*, Lee & Low Books, 2001 (Pre-K – 3).

Thirteen poets write with joy, humor and love about the powerful bond between mothers, grandmothers and children. The writers include men and women who represent a wide spectrum of Latino/a voices. Teachers' guide at [www.leeandlow.com/teachers/guide43.html](http://www.leeandlow.com/teachers/guide43.html).

Lisette Norman, *My Feet Are Laughing*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006 (1 – 5).

Sixteen poems in the voice of a young Dominican-American girl who celebrates her family and the city around her.

Todd Parr, *The Family Book*, Little, Brown Young Readers, 2004 (Pre-K – K).

All kinds of families are celebrated in a funny, silly and reassuring way. Includes adoptive families, stepfamilies, single-parent families, two-mom and two-dad families and families with a mom and a dad. Quirky humor and bright, childlike illustrations.

Patricia Polacco, *The Keeping Quilt*, Aladdin Paperbacks, 2001 (K – 3).

Traces the history of a quilt made from bits of Polacco's ancestors' clothing. Over the course of a century, the coverlet serves as a Sabbath tablecloth, a wedding canopy and a blanket for newborn babies, connecting generations from one to the next.

Pam Muñoz Ryan, *One Hundred Is a Family*, Hyperion Press, 1996 (Pre-K – 1).

Families in all shapes and sizes are the subject of this rhyming counting book. The concept of family is broadly and appealingly defined — from a child waiting to arrive at a new home to a community of 100 people planting trees.

Cynthia Rylant, *The Relatives Came*, Aladdin, 1993 (Pre-K – 1).

In a rainbow-colored station wagon, the relatives came. They hugged from the kitchen to the front room. All summer they tended the garden and ate up all the strawberries. When they had to leave, they were sad but not for long. They all knew they would be together next summer.

Norma Simon & Teresa Flavin (Illustrator), *All Families Are Special*, Albert Whitman & Co., 2003 (1 – 3).

Enhances Simon's classic *All Kinds of Families*. Provides contemporary examples, including two-mom, blended and international families. It goes beyond other books in portraying different kinds of families and shows what can be hard in a family, as well as what is good.

Robert Skutch, *Who's in a Family?* Tricycle Press, 1997 (Pre-K – 1).

A picture book showing multicultural contemporary family units, including those with single parents, two moms or two dads, mixed-race couples, grandparents and divorced parents.

David Smith & Shelagh Armstrong (Illustrator), *If the World Were a Village: A Book About the World's People*, Kid's Can Press, 2002 (2 – 6).

Condenses the world's population into an imaginary village of 100 people and then addresses different aspects of life within this global village — always in accessible, human terms.

Javaka Steptoe (Editor), *In Daddy's Arms I AM TALL: African Americans Celebrating Fathers*, Lee & Low Books, 2001 (Pre-K – 3).

Fatherhood is celebrated with honor, humor and grace in this intergenerational collection of poetry by new and established African-American writers. The book testifies to the powerful bond between father and child, with a profound message that family is the greatest gift and that fathers are among the most influential heroes.

Jacqueline Woodson, *We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past*, Jump at the Sun, 2007 (K – 2).

Join Teeka's sprawling, urban African-American family for their annual picnic in the park and experience an extended family gathering that brims with love and acceptance.

## PHOTO ESSAYS ON FAMILIES

Peggy Gillespie & Gigi Kaeser (Photographer), *Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents and Their Families*, University of Massachusetts Press, 1999 (K – Adult). [www.familydiv.org](http://www.familydiv.org)

Photo portraits and accompanying statements focus on families with parents who are lesbian, gay or transgender. Adding further diversity are biracial couples and parents and children of different races.

Peggy Gillespie & Gigi Kaeser (Photographer), *Of Many Colors: Portraits of Multiracial Families*. University of Massachusetts Press, 1997 (K – Adult). [www.familydiv.org](http://www.familydiv.org)

Based on an award-winning photo exhibit, this book documents the feelings and experiences of Americans who live in multiracial families. Countering stereotypes, members of 39 families have much to say about the most intimate form of integration — familial love.

Anabel & Barnabas Kindersley, *Children Just Like Me*, DK CHILDREN, 1995 (K – 5).



The authors spent two years meeting and photographing youngsters from every continent and more than 140 countries. Photographs and text depict homes, schools, family life and culture.

Susan Kuklin, *Families*, Hyperion, 2006 (K – 5).

Combining interviews and engaging color photos, this book shows the diversity of families in America. Includes mixed-race, immigrant, two-dad, two-mom and single-parent families and families for whom religion is a focal point. The interviews focus on the children's feelings about being part of their family.

Peter Menzel, Charles Mann & Paul Kennedy, *Material World: A Global Family Portrait*, Sierra Club Books, 1995.

Visual portrait of life in 30 nations. Photographs of families from around the world, outside of their homes with all of their belongings.

Ann Morris, *Families*, HarperCollins, 2000 (Pre-K – 1).

Some children live with their mothers and fathers. Others have stepparents or live with just one parent. Still others live with grandparents or foster parents who chose them specially. But all children around the world are part of families — big and small, loving, sharing and caring for one another.

## **ADOPTION**

Eve Bunting & Chris Soentpiet (Illustrator), *Jin Woo*, Clarion Books, 2001 (K – 2).

David likes his family the way it has always been. He never wanted to be a big brother. And he certainly didn't want Jin Woo, who is now getting all the attention. A surprising letter helps him to understand that being a brother can mean being surrounded with more love than ever.

Linda Walvoord Girard, *Adoption Is for Always*, Albert Whitman & Co., 1991 (1 – 4).

Although Celia reacts to having been adopted with anger and insecurity, her parents help her accept her feelings and celebrate their love for her by making her adoption day a family holiday. Includes factual information about the adoption process.

Linda Walvoord Girard, *We Adopted You, Benjamin Koo*, Albert Whitman & Co., 1992 (K – 2).

Nine-year-old Benjamin Koo Andrews, adopted from Korea as an infant, describes what it's like to grow up adopted from another country.

Keiko Kasza, *A Mother for Choco*, Putnam Juvenile, 1996 (Pre-K – 1).

Choco wishes he had a mother, but who could she be? He sets off to find her, asking all kinds of animals, but he doesn't meet anyone who looks just like him. Finally he meets Mother Bear and learns that families can come in all shapes and sizes and still fit together.

Karen Katz, *Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale*, Henry Holt and Co., 2001 (Pre-K – K).

A long-awaited baby is born, and the adoptive parents who have been dreaming of her fly far, far away to bring her home.

Rose Lewis, *I Love You Like Crazy Cakes*, Little, Brown Young Readers, 2000 (Pre-K – 2).

Based on the author's own experience, this heartfelt story follows a woman on her journey to adopt a baby girl from China.

Jean Little & Jennifer Plecas (Illustrator), *Emma's Yucky Brother*, HarperTrophy, 2002 (K – 2).



When Emma's family adopts a 4-year-old boy named Max, Emma learns that there is more to having a little brother than she had ever guessed — and that in order to get the brother she wants, she must first learn to be the sister he needs.

Jean MacLeod, *At Home in This World, A China Adoption Story*, EMK Press, 2003 (3 – 5).

Reflection of a pre-adolescent girl on what she knows of her adoption from China and the strength she gains from her acceptance of the bittersweet experience.

Jean Davies Okimoto & Elaine M. Aoki, *The White Swan Express: A Story About Adoption*, Clarion Books, 2002 (K – 3).

Across North America people in four different homes prepare for a special trip to China, while four baby girls in China await their new adoptive parents. Shows the adoption process step by step and the anxiety, suspense and delight of becoming a family. Includes a single-mom family and a two-mom family.

Todd Parr, *We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families*, Little, Brown Young Readers, 2007 (PreK – 1).

In a kid-friendly, accessible way, this book explores the ways that people can choose to come together to make a family. It's about sharing your home and sharing your heart to make a family that belongs together.

Liz Rosenberg & Peter Catalanotto (Illustrator), *We Wanted You*, Roaring Brook Press, 2002 (K – 3).

When their son graduates from high school, a couple reminisces about the boy they embraced as part of their family even before he was born.

Perry Schwartz, *Carolyn's Story*, Lerner Publishing Group, 1996 (3 – 5).

A 9-year-old girl describes her life and her feelings about being adopted as a baby in Honduras. Includes information and resources about adoption.

## **DIVORCE**

Julia Alvarez, *How Tia Lola Came to Visit Stay*, Yearling, 2002 (3 – 7).

Miguel and his sister have just moved to Vermont with their mother, leaving behind their father in New York. Tia Lola comes from the Dominican Republic to help out. She creates a whirlwind in their home, from her flamboyant appearance to her lively music, and vivid storytelling.

Jan Blackstone-Ford, Annie Ford, Melanie Ford and Steven Ford. *My Parents Are Divorced, Too: A Book for Kids by Kids*, Magination Press, 2006 (3 – 6).

Been there, done that — that's the message of this book told by kids who have survived their parents' divorce and are sharing their hard-won wisdom with other kids. Asks and answers the toughest questions that kids have about divorce.

Laurene Krasny Brown & Marc Brown, *Dinosaurs Divorce: A Guide for Changing Families*, Little, Brown Young Readers, 1986 (Pre-K – 2).

The traumatic childhood experience of parents divorcing is depicted through dinosaur characters. Chapters address the full range of feelings that a divorce produces.

Judith Caseley, *Priscilla Twice*, Greenwillow Books, 1995 (K – 4).

Looks at the issue of a family break-up through the eyes of a child. As the book begins, Priscilla's parents are still together, but she knows that trouble is brewing. After her parents separate, Priscilla spends her days between the two houses, feeling split apart yet needed more than ever before.



Beverly Cleary & Paul O. Zelinsky (Illustrator), *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, HarperTrophy, 2000 (3-6).  
In his letters to his favorite author, 10-year-old Leigh reveals his problems coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school and generally finding his own place in the world. Provides a great model of releasing emotions through writing.

Mary Hoffman, *Boundless Grace*, Puffin Books, 2000 (Pre-K – 2).  
Grace goes to Africa and visit her father and his new family, but she feels a little strange. Nana says families are what you make them. Grace is going to make the most of hers!

Nancy Holyoke, *Help! A Girl's Guide to Divorce and Stepfamilies*. Pleasant Company Publications, 1999 (3 – 6).  
This third title in the Help! series answers girls' letters on every aspect of divorce — from the initial split-up to a parent's remarriage — and encourages conversation with parents when it's needed most.

Jill Krentz, *How It Feels When Parents Divorce*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1988 (4 – 6).  
Nineteen boys and girls, from 7 to 16 years old and from highly diverse backgrounds, share their deepest feelings about their parents' divorce.

Jeanie Franz Ransom & Kathryn Kunz Finney, *I Don't Want to Talk About It*, Magination Press, 2000 (Pre-K – 1).  
When a child's parents tell her they have decided to divorce, the last thing she wants to do is talk about it. Instead, she wants to roar as loud as a lion, so she can't hear their painful words, or turn into a fish and hide her tears in the sea. But with help, she starts to consider what life will be like after divorce.

Barbara Santucci, *Loon Summer*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 2001 (K – 4).  
A delicate story about a girl and her father, who are spending their first summer at the lake without the girl's mother.

Sharon Dennis Wyeth, *Ginger Brown: Too Many Houses*, Random Library, 1996 (2 – 5).  
After her parents separate, Ginger Brown does a lot of moving. The lyrical first-person narrative relates a different experience for each month of Ginger's difficult but revealing first year as a suitcase kid.

## **FOSTER CARE**

Geraldine Molettiere Blomquist, Paul B. Blomquist & Margo Lemieux. *Zachary's New Home: A Story for Foster and Adopted Children*, Magination, 1991 (Pre-K – 1).  
Zachary, the kitten, is taken from his mother's house when his mother is unable to take care of him. He is fostered and then adopted by a family of geese. He experiences the true-to-life feelings of shame, rebelliousness and hurt, until he finally finds a place to call home.

Jacqueline Woodson, *Our Gracie Aunt*, Jump at the Sun, 2002 (K – 4).  
Johnson and his sister, Beebee, have to take care of themselves after their mother leaves. Then they're moved to the Aunt Gracie's house and things start getting better.

V.M. Caldwell, *The Ocean Within*, Milkweed Editions, 1999 (4 – 7).



Elizabeth, an 11-year-old foster child, is adopted by the boisterous, openly affectionate Sheridan family but she feels she can't trust the welcome that is offered. Grandma decides to use a new approach to help her connect with her new family.

Christopher Paul Curtis, *Bud, Not Buddy*, Laurel Leaf, 2004 (3 – 6).

The story of Bud, a 10-year-old, African-American foster child who is determined to find his father in Depression-era Michigan.

Patricia Reilly Giff, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*, Yearling, 2004. (4 – 7).

Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. When Hollis is sent to Josie, she'll do everything in her power to make sure they stay together.

George Harrar, *Parents Wanted*, Milkweed Editions, 2001 (4 – 6).

Andy longs for a loving home and parents he can trust, but his ADHD and lifetime of shuffling between foster homes cause him to challenge authority constantly. When he's taken in by the Sizeracys, he's anxious to fit in with a "normal" family. Captures emotional turmoil and a desperate need for acceptance.

Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia Kahn Wright, *Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care*, American Psychological Association, 2002 (K-3).

Will I live with my parents again? Will I stay with my foster parents forever? Addresses the questions, feelings, and concerns children most often face. An extensive afterword for adults.

Sharon Dennis Wyeth, *A Piece of Heaven*, Yearling, 2002 (3 – 7).

A young teenager, Mahalia Moon, deals with her family's disintegration by working in a teacher's garden during the summer. When Mahalia's mother has an emotional breakdown and her brother gets arrested, she is placed in foster care.

## GRANDPARENTS

Edna Coe Bercaw, *Halmoni's Day*, Dial Books for Young Readers, 2000 (Pre-K – 2).

Jennifer is worried about her Korean grandmother's visit to school because Halmoni does not speak English and wears traditional Korean dress. The visit goes perfectly, and Jennifer learns more about her grandmother's life story as well.

Sharon Creech, *Walk Two Moons*, HarperTrophy, 2005 (4 – 8).

While on a car trip from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents, Salamanca tells the outrageous story of her friend Phoebe to pass the time. As she does, her own story begins to unfold — the story of a 13-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother.

Valerie Flournoy, *The Patchwork Quilt*, Puffin Books, 1995 (K – 3).

Tanya loves listening to her grandmother talk about the quilt she is making from pieces of colorful fabric from the family clothes. When Grandma becomes ill, Tanya decides to finish Grandma's masterpiece with the help of her family.

Kimberly Willis Holt, *The Louisiana Sky*, Yearling, 2000 (4 – 7).

Tiger has lived her whole life with her "slow" parents and Granny. An exploration of her struggle to accept her Granny's death, her parents and the changing world.

Richard Peck, *A Year Down Yonder*, Puffin, 2002 (3 – 7).



A sequel to *A Long Way from Chicago*. Mary Alice moves in with her spicy grandmother for the year. Expect moonlit schemes, romances both foiled and founded and a whole parade of fools made to suffer in unusual (and always hilarious) ways.

Cheryl Savageau, *Muskrat Will Be Swimming*, Tilbury House, 2006 (K – 5).

A heartwarming tale of the lesson a girl learns from a Seneca creation story her grandfather tells her — a lesson of knowing who you are and staying strong in the face of hurtful criticism.

Margaret Holloway Tsubakiyama, *Mei-Mei Loves the Morning*, Albert Whitman & Co., 1999 (Pre-K – 1).

Captures the loving relationship between a grandfather and granddaughter in contemporary China as they get up early, eat breakfast together, board a bicycle and travel congested streets to a local park.

Mildred Pitts Walter, *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World*, Yearling, 1990 (3 – 5).

His beloved grandfather helps ten-year-old Justin realize that cleaning and keeping house are not only women's work.

Laurence Yep, *The Imp That Ate My Homework*, HarperTrophy, 2000 (3 – 5).

Jim wants to be a normal American kid. The only problem: His grandfather is the meanest, ugliest man in Chinatown. Grandpop has no patience for his “native-born, no brains” grandson, and Jim is not that interested in hearing about old Chinese customs and superstitions. But then a nasty green imp shows up and Grandpop seems to be the only one who can help.

## **HOMELESSNESS**

Eve Bunting, *Fly Away Home*, Clarion Books, 1993 (1 – 5).

A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal trying not to be noticed, is given hope when a trapped bird finally finds its way out.

Paula Fox, *Monkey Island*, Yearling Books, 1993 (4 – 7).

Abandoned in New York by his parents, 11-year-old Clay befriends two homeless men in the park and learns to survive on the streets in the dead of winter. He is finally reunited with his mother after seven months.

Ann McGovern & Marni Backer (Illustrator), *The Lady in the Box*, Turtle Books, 2000 (1 – 5).

At Christmas, Ben and his sister decide to help. By reaching out to a homeless person, they learn the value of sharing and begin to grasp the essence of community. They also are drawn closer to their own mother.

Linda Sue Park, *A Single Shard*, Oxford University Press, 2006 (4 – 8).

Set in 12th-century Korea, this is the story of orphaned Tree-ear, who lives under a bridge with Crane-man but dreams of becoming a Master Potter. When he is sent to the King's Court to show the master's pottery, Tree-ear doesn't know that this difficult and dangerous journey will change his life forever.

Marie Testa & Karen Ritz (Illustrator), *Someplace to Go*, Albert Whitman & Co., 1996 (3 – 5).

Davey describes how he spends his time after school trying to keep safe and warm until he can meet his mother and older brother when the shelter opens at eight o'clock.

## **INCARCERATED PARENTS**

Pat Brisson, *Mama Loves Me from Away*, Boyds Mills Press, 2004 (1 – 3).



Shows the loving bond between Sugar and her single-parent mom through memories. But now Sugar now lives with Grammy, and they travel every Sunday on three long bus rides to visit Mama.

Vera B. Williams, *Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart*, HarperTrophy, 2004 (1 – 4).

A series of poems tells how two sisters help each other deal with life while their mother is working and their father is in jail. Friendships and support shine through the difficulties.

Jacqueline Woodson, *Visiting Day*, Scholastic Press, 2002 (1 – 3).

As a little girl and her grandmother get ready for visiting day, her father, who adores her but is in prison, gets ready, too. The community of families who take the long bus ride upstate to visit loved ones share hope and comfort with each other.

## MULTIRACIAL FAMILIES

Andrea Cheng, *Grandfather Counts*, Lee & Low Books, 2003 (Pre-K – 2).

When Helen's Chinese grandfather comes to live with her family in the United States, the language barrier seems insurmountable until they each find pleasure in introducing the other to words in his or her native tongue. A moving intergenerational story.

Marguerite W. Davol, *Black, White, Just Right!*, Albert Whitman & Co., 1993 (Pre-K – 1).

A mixed-race child celebrates the rich inclusiveness of her life in a joyful picture book. Mama's face is chestnut brown, Papa's face turns pink in the sun, and the child is a little dark, a little light, "Just right!"

Alma Flor Ada, *I Love Saturdays y Domingos*, Atheneum, 2002 (K – 2).

An affectionate and revealing portrait of a bilingual girl's weekend visits to her two sets of grandparents. She does different things in each place, goes on different outings and hears different stories reflecting her grandparents' heritages.

Toyomi Igus, *The Two Mrs. Gibsons*, Children's Book Press, 1996 (Pre-K – 2).

A young girl tells of her very different but loving relationships with her Japanese-American mother and her African-American grandmother.

Carrie A. Kitze, *I Don't Have Your Eye*, EMK Press, 2003 (Pre-K – 1).

For transracial and transcultural adoptees, domestic adoptees and children in foster care, celebrating the differences within their families, as well as the similarities that connect them, is the foundation for belonging.

E.L. Konigsburg, *Throwing Shadows*, Aladdin Paperbacks, 1998 (4 – 8).

Five short stories that capture the moment when someone's life changes — when a chance meeting between two people casts a shadow on what things have been like and what they can become. Includes a multiracial family, single-parent family.

Laurence Yep, *Angelfish*, Putnam Juvenile, 2001 (3 – 6).

Robin, a young ballet dancer who is half Chinese and half white, works in a fish store for Mr. Tsow, a brusque Chinese man who accuses her of being a half-person and who harbors a bitter secret.

Natasha Wing, *Jalapeno Bagels*, Atheneum, 1996 (Pre-K – 2).

While trying to decide what to take for his school's International Day, Pablo helps his Mexican mother and Jewish father at their bakery and discovers a food that represents both his parents' backgrounds.



Sharon Dennis Wyeth, *The World of Daughter McGuire*, Delacorte Press, 2001 (3 – 6).

A new home, new friends and a new school project lead Daughter McGuire to some exciting discoveries about her multicultural heritage.

### **SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES**

Betsy Byars, *The Night Swimmers*, Yearling Books, 1983 (3 – 6).

Since their mother died, Retta is in charge of her two brothers while her father leaves them alone during his performances as a country-western singer.

Lucille Clifton, *Everett Anderson's Goodbye*, Henry Holt and Co., 1988 (1 – 3).

This quiet yet poetic book effectively explains and illustrates the five stages of grief people experience when a loved one dies. The popular young African-American character, Everett Anderson, works through each stage.

Kate Dicamillo, *Because of Winn Dixie*, Walker Books Ltd., 2005 (4 – 7).

When 10-year-old India Opal moves to Florida with her father she doesn't know what to expect. She is lonely until she meets Winn-Dixie, a stray dog who helps her make some unusual friends. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal lets go of some of her sadness and finds she has a whole lot to be thankful for.

Roma Downey, *Love Is a Family*, ReganBooks, 2001 (Pre-K – 2).

Lily loves her mother, but when it's time for Family Fun Night at her school, she worries. What will the other kids think when she just brings her mother? When they arrive, Lily sees all her friends having fun with their families — of every shape, size and color.

Kimberly Willis Holt, *Mister and Me*, Putnam Juvenile, 2000 (3 – 5).

Jolene's father died when she was a baby. When Leroy Redfield starts taking Momma dancing, Jolene refuses to call him anything but "Mister." With love and patience, "Mister" helps Jolene expand her notion of family.

Cynthia Rylant, *The Van Gogh Café*, Harcourt, 2006 (4 – 7).

Seven vignettes of life at the Van Gogh Café in Flowers, Kansas. The café is run by a father and his 10-year-old daughter. Something magical or special happens in each chapter.

Vera B. Williams, *Scooter*, HarperTrophy, 2001 (2 – 5).

Elana Rose has just moved to a new apartment with her mother, and, on her scooter, she is exploring everything she can. New friends, old friends, a winning field day and her relationship with young Petey (a boy who does not speak) fill her days.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

Jane Cowen-Fletcher, *Mama Zooms*, Scholastic, 1996 (Pre-K – K).

A toddler sits on his Mama's lap pretending to be a jockey, a ship captain, a smooth race car driver or a pilot. But this is no ordinary lap of pretend, because Mama has a "zooming machine" — a wheelchair.

Virginia Hamilton, *Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush*, Avon, 1987 (3 – 6).

With her father long gone and her practical nurse mother away most of the time, 14-year-old Teresa cares for her retarded older brother, Dab.

Dick King-Smith, *Spider Sparrow*, Yearling, 2001 (3-6).



Spider Sparrow has always been different. Adopted by kindly shepherds. However, he can't walk, talk, or learn like other children. But Spider has a gift: he can imitate perfectly the sounds of animals. For Spider, the world may be a difficult place, but he lives each day with joy and courage.

Patricia Lakin, *Dad and Me in the Morning*, Albert Whitman & Co., 1994 (Pre-K – 2).

Far before anyone else in the house is up, a young boy sneaks in to wake his dad and they head out together, to watch the sun come up over the lake by their home. The illustrations in this book present ASL beautifully, as a Deaf son and his father communicate their strong bond with each another.

Laurie Lears, *Ian's Walk: A Story About Autism*, Albert Whitman & Co., 2003 (1 – 3).

A young girl realizes how much she cares about her autistic brother when he gets lost at the park.

Cynthia Lord, *Rules*, Scholastic Press, 2006 (4 – 7).

Catherine spent years trying to teach her autistic brother rules — such as “No toys in the fish tank.” Then she meets Jason, a paraplegic boy, and Kristi, the friend she’s always wished for. It’s her own behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

Patricia MacLachlan, *Through Grandpa's Eyes*, HarperTrophy, 1983 (Pre-K – 2).

On John’s visits to Grandpa’s house, his blind grandfather shares with him the special way he sees and moves in the world.

Patricia McMahon, *Summer Tunes: A Martha's Vineyard Vacation*, Boyds Mills Press, 1996 (K – 2).

Ten-year-old Conor, who has cerebral palsy, spends a summer vacation with his family on Martha’s Vineyard in this photographic essay.

## **TWO-MOM OR TWO-DAD FAMILIES**

Marc Brown, *Buster's Sugartime*, Little, Brown & Co., 2006 (K – 3).

An easy-reader companion book to the PBS *Postcards From Buster* episode that takes Buster to visit a family headed by two moms in Vermont. While there, he learns all about how maple sugar is made.

Bobbie Combs, *123: A Family Counting Book*, Two Lives Publishing, 2001 (Pre-K – K).

Celebrates alternative families as it teaches kids to count from 1 to 20. All of the full-color paintings depict families with two moms or two dads.

Martha Freeman & Cat Bowman Smith, *The Trouble with Babies*, Holiday House, 2002 (2 – 4).

Holly, her mother, and stepfather have just moved from an apartment to a house in San Francisco. Her two new friends are Xavier, who lives with his two fathers, and Annie, who is Jewish and Chinese. Xavier has a crush on Annie and hopes to win her over by putting her “yucky” baby sister in his de-yuckification machine.

Eric Hoffman, Celeste Henriquez (Illustrator) & Eida De La Vega (Translator), *Best, Best Colors / Los Mejores Colores*, Redleaf Press, 1999 (Pre-K – 2).

When Nate’s Mamma Jean and Mamma Laura ask him his favorite color, he wonders, “How can I choose just one?” Later, Nate learns he likes all the colors best when they’re together and that he can have more than one favorite color and more than one best friend.

Nancy Garden, *Holly's Secret*, Farrar, Strauss and Girroux, 2000 (3 – 7).



Holly has a plan to create a new self to hide the fact that she has two moms from schoolmates in her new hometown. But trying to hide something so big proves to be a daunting task. The novel is infused with humor but also tackles prejudice and reinforces the old saw: Honesty is the best policy.

Jennifer C. Gregg & Janna Richards (Illustrator), *Flying Free*, BookSurge, 2004 (Pre-K – 1).

Violet captures a firefly and plans to use it as a nightlight. Her mommies, Mommy Blue and Mama Red, go along with the idea, but the firefly refuses to live in a glass jar. After several attempts, the firefly devises the ultimate escape plan.

Patricia Polacco, *In Our Mothers' House*, Philomel, 2009 (2 – 5).

Marmee, Meema, and the kids are just like any other family on the block. In their house, they cook, laugh, and dance together. But some families don't accept them, saying they are different. But Marmee and Meema's house is full of love. And they teach their children that different doesn't mean wrong.

Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell, *And Tango Makes Three / Tres Con Tango*, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2005, Lectorum Publications, 2006 (Pre-K – 2).

The story of two famous dads — penguins Roy and Silo from New York's Central Park Zoo. After the penguins put a rock in their nest and try to hatch it, the zookeeper gives them a real egg that needs to be cared for. The two take turns sitting on it until it hatches, and Tango is born.

Johnny Valentine, *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads*, Alyson Publications, 2004 (Pre-K – 2).

In Dr. Seuss-like rhyme, a girl questions a boy about his two blue-skinned dads. She discovers that in spite of their blueness, they do all the usual things — work, play, cook, cough — that other dads do. Good for reading aloud or early readers.

Judith Vigna, *My Two Uncles*, Albert Whitman & Co., 1995 (4 – 5).

Elly's grandfather has trouble accepting that his son — Elly's uncle — is gay. Elly is excited about her grandparent's 50th anniversary party, but Uncle Phil can't come. She doesn't understand why. A picture book that looks at some of the complex emotions of Elly, her uncles and her grandfather.

DVD/ Video

Debra Chasnoff & Helen Cohen, *That's a Family!*, Women's Educational Media, DVD/ VHS, 2001.

*That's a Family!* takes a tour, from a child's point of view, through a range of family structures. With blunt and sometimes hilarious candor, the children who star in *That's a Family!* open the door to their homes. They explain what things like "divorce," "mixed race," "gay and lesbian," "birth mom," "guardian," and "stepdad" mean and get right to the heart of what they wish other people would understand about their families.

[www.groundspark.org/films/thatfamily/index.html](http://www.groundspark.org/films/thatfamily/index.html).

## WEBSITES WITH BIBLIOGRAPHIES

A World of Difference® Institute: Recommended Multicultural and Anti-Bias Books for Children Grades K-6. An extensive bibliography of books, well organized. [www.adl.org/bibliography/default.asp](http://www.adl.org/bibliography/default.asp).

Cooperative Children's Book Center.

Many bibliographies for children and young adults, including ones on family, multicultural books and community. [www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc](http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc).

