Gender & Sexuality Diversity Books: Pre-K, Elementary, Middle School (revised 10/2013)

All Kinds of Families

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.

Mommy, Mamma and Me (2-4) Leslea Newman
A board book about a toddler’s day with two moms.

Daddy, Papa and Me (2-4) Leslea Newman
A board book about a toddler’s day with two dads.

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
Readers count from 1 to 100, seeing many types of families doing things together.

Oh The Things Mommies Do! What Could Be Better Than Having Two? (2-5) Crystal Tompkins
Children of all ages living, playing and loving two moms. Multicultural illustrations a plus.

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. Helpful read for any child waiting for the arrival of a sibling!

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 LGTB families.

123 A Family Counting Book (2-6) Bobbie Combs
Learning to count with pictures of LGTB families.

Felicia’s Favorite Story (3-7) Leslea Newman
A bedtime story about adoption by two moms.

All Families Are Special (3-6) Norma Simon
Single, adopted, same sex, long distance parents, grandparents, divorced families.

How My Family Came to Be- Daddy, Papa and Me (2-6) Andrew Aldrich
A story about adoption, two fathers and an interracial family.

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.

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

Emma and Meesha My Boy (3-6) by Kaitlyn Considine
Emma learns from her two moms how to care for Meesha Kitty.

A Tale of Two Daddies (3-6) Vanita Oelschlager
A girl answers the questions of a curious friend about her Poppa and Daddy.
**A Tale of Two Mommies** (3-6) Vanita Oelschlager  
A boy answers the questions of a curious friend about his Momma and Mommy.

**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.

**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.

**My Really Cool Baby Book** (4-7) 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.

**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.

**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.

**Donovan’s Big Day** (3-8) Leslea Newman  
Donovan gets ready for a very important celebration---his moms are getting married!

**Asha’s Mums** (4-8) Rosamund Elwin  
A field trip permission slip sparks a lively discussion at school about families.

**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.

**Mom and Mum are getting Married!** Ken Setterington  
Rosie tries to figure out what her role will be in this special celebration.

**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 adventure.

**Saturday is Pattyday** (4-7) Leslea Newman  
An important story about what happens to a young girl when her two moms separate.

**Buster’s Sugartime** (4-8) Mark Brown  
Based on the t.v. series, Buster goes to Vermont, visits lesbian moms and their three kids and learns about mud season and maple syrup.

**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

**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.

**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.

**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.
My Two Uncles (7-10) Judith Vigna
Elly learns about prejudice when her 2 favorite uncles aren’t invited to a family party.

The Purim Superhero (4-9) Elisabeth Kushner
A young Jewish boy struggles with whether to wear the popular costume for Purim or the one he truly desires. Max’s fathers and sister support him in making his decision & costume.

The Concept of “Same” and “Different”

No Two Alike (2 and up) Keith Baker
In this beautifully, simply illustrated picture book two little read birds explore the concept of similar and unique by observing everything from snowflakes to forests to fences.

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. CD included.

Monicka’s Papa is Tall (2-6) Heather Jopling
Papa and Daddy are different in many ways. See how their family puzzle fits together!

Ryan’s Mom is Tall (2-6) Heather Jopling
Mom and Mummy are different in many ways. See how their family puzzle fits together!

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.

All the Colors of the Earth (4-8) Sheila Hamanaka
Different skin colors, animals, earthtones are the rich tapestry of Hamanka’s look at race.

Same, Same But Different (4-10) Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
A book about pen pals (America, India) who write letters about the ways their lives are the same but different. Lively illustrations that convey the concept of “same and different”

Gender Roles, Gender Stereotypes

Hoops With Swoops (4-8) Susan Kuklin with Sheryl Swoops
Photographs of one of the best female basketball players ever in action. Swoops demonstrates jumping, catching, passing. For young basketball fans of every age and gender.

I Look Like a Girl (4-8) Sheila Hamanaka
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.

Not All Princesses Dress In Pink (3-6) Jane Yolen
These princesses wear their sparkly crowns while playing soccer, getting muddy, and biking.

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.”

Priscilla and The Pink Planet (3-6) Jocelyn Hobbie
In the rhyming style of Dr. Seuss, Priscilla grows tired of a one color and searches for others.

Oliver Button is a Sissy (4-7) Tomi dePaula
Oliver’s love for music and dancing brings ridicule and eventually triumph.

The Princesses Have a Ball (4-7) Teresa Bateman
A mystery ensues when the princesses keep wearing out their shoes. Think basketball!

Do Princesses Wear Hiking Boots? (4-7) Carmela LaVigna Coyle
Lots of questions from a girl who wants to be a princess AND play in the mud, climb trees.

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 have.

Pink is Just a Color, and So is Blue (3-8) Niki Bhatia
Bhatia’s humorous story teaches young readers that they should be free to choose what they like without someone dictating what it should be.

Hello, Sailor (4-7) Ingrid Godon
A simple story about the loving bond between two men.

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.

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.

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 a depressing make-over driven by gender stereotypes.

My Name is Not Isabella (3-8) Jane Yolen
Isabella delights in pretending to be some of the amazing women who changed history: Sally Ride, Annie Oakly, Marie Curie. A superb “history lesson” taught through imagination & play.

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.

Weslandia (4-9) Paul Fleischman
Wesley isn’t like other boys, a fact that irks his parents and invites the torment of his peers. Resilient, creative, Wesley invents his own civilization which others eventually want to join.

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.

Rotten Richie and the Ultimate Dare (5-9) Patricia Polacco
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 the challenges of ballet.

The Princess Knight (5-9) Cornelia Funk
A funny, unapologetic feminist tale. The king trains his sons and plans to marry off his daughter Violetta but she has other plans.

The Basket Ball (5-9) Esme Raji Codell
When the boys won’t let her play, Lulu holds a basket “ball,” inviting girls from around the world to try out. A refreshing multi-dimensional portrait of girls who are “girly” & “sporty.”

Sarah Gives Thanks (5-9) Mike Allegra
The story of Sarah Josepha Hale, the pioneering woman writer who convinced the president of the United States to establish a national holiday for the giving of thanks.

The Harvey Milk Story (8 and up) Kari Krakow
A picture book biography about the first openly gay elected official in the U.S.
Gender Identity

**My Princess Boy** *(A mom’s story about a young boy who loves to dress up)* (3-7) Cheryl Kilodavis
A nonfiction picture book by a mom about her 4-year-old son, who likes wearing 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.

**Rough, Tough Charley** (5-9) Verla Kay
Charley Parkhurst was a respected stagecoach driver in the old West. Charley also kept one of the biggest secrets anyone could keep - he was a woman who lived life as a man.

**All I Want To Be Is Me** (5-10) Phyllis Rothblatt
An affirmation in rhyme about children whose gender identities do not conform to stereotypical assumptions about who boys are and who girls.

**Be Who You Are!** (6-10) Jennifer Carr
A story about a transgender child who receives support from his family and gets their help in navigating life at school.

**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 him.

Bodies, Babies, Reproduction

**Who Has What? All About Girl’s Bodies and Boys’ Bodies** (3-8) Robie Harris
A resource for young children who are full of questions about their own bodies and everyone else’s!

**It’s Not the Stork!** *(A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends)* (3-8) Robie Harris
A book for children who want to know where babies come from and so much more.

**It’s So Amazing!** *(A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families)* (7 and up) Robie Harris
A playful, detailed look at bodies and reproduction. Great illustrations that appeal to kids.

**It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health** (10 and up) Robie Harris
A resource for pre-teens and young teens about puberty, their changing bodies and sexuality.

Friendship

**Horace and Morris but mostly Dolores** (4-8) By James Howe
Three adventurous mice are tested when a “Boys Only” club changes their friendship.

**Andy Shane is Not In Love** (5-9) Jennifer Jacobsen
An early reader that explores the kind of love and competition that exists between friends. Very helpful in clarifying and affirming friendship love between boys and girls

**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.

Chapter Books

**Tanny’s Meow** (6-10) Ursula Ferro
A two mom family moves to a new town and discover a kitten waiting for them. *Wishing for Kittens* (6-10) Ursula Ferro
In this sequel to *Tanny’s Meow*, Rachel and her family decide to let Tanny have kittens.

**Mother’s Day on Martha’s Vineyard** (6-10) Ursula Ferro
Third book in the series has Rachel, her brother, two moms visiting grandparents.
Pet of My Own (6-10) 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.

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.

Young Adult Novels
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 Trouble with Babies (8-12) Martha Freeman
Holly moves & makes new friends, one of whom has two dads and one with a new baby.

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.

My Mixed-Up Berry Blue Summer (8-12) Jennifer Gennari
Twelve year old June is facing a summer full of challenges: her mother and partner are in the thick of the gay marriage debate in Vermont, June is contending with friendship and relationship conflicts of her own, and in the backdrop is the county fair pie-making contest.

Holly's Secret (10 and up) Nancy Garden
A 7th grader moves to a new town and tries to hide the fact that her parents are lesbians.

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.

Annie on My Mind (12 and up) Nancy Garden
A poignant coming out/love story of two teenage girls. Originally written in 1982, the 25th anniversary addition includes a full length interview with the author.

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** (12 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.

**Beautiful Music for Ugly Children** (12 and up) by Kirstin Cronn-Mills
A quirky, not-so-typical coming of age story about a transgender youth who loves the radio and has a winning narrative voice.

**Out of the Pocket** (12 and up) by Bill Konigsberg
A compelling, well-written story about the star quarterback of the high school football team wrestling with his sexual identity. Realistic characters and smart portrayal of high school sports.

**The Miseducation of Cameron Post** (13 and up) by emily m. danforth
A powerful and widely acclaimed coming of age story set in rural Montana in the early 1990s. Cameron Post feels a mix of guilt and relief when her parents die in a car accident. Their deaths mean they will never learn the truth she eventually comes to—that she’s gay.

**Drama** (13 and up) by Raina Telgemeier
Callie loves theatre, and is determined to create a set for *Moon Over Mississippi* worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget in this full-color graphic novel.

**Wandering Son** (13 and up) by Shimura Takako
A sensitive rendering from Japan’s most prominent creator of LGBT manga. Shuichi is a boy who wants to be a girl, and Yoshino is a girl who wants to be a boy. Shimura portrays Shuishi and Yoshino’s very private journey with affection, sensitivity, gentle humor, and unmistakable flair and grace.

**October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard** (13 and up) by Leslea Newman
*October Mourning*, a novel in verse, is her deeply felt response to the events of that tragic day when Matthew Shepard was beaten and left to die. Using her poetic imagination, the author creates fictitious monologues from various points of view.