LGBTQ-inclusive Children’s Books

LGBTQ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning

A Tale of Two Mommies
Paperback – September 1, 2011
by Vanita Oelschlager (Author), Mike Blanc (Illustrator)

A Tale of Two Mommies is a beach conversation among three children. One boy asks another boy about having two mommies. A young girl listening in asks some questions too.

A Tale of Two Mommies is intended for 4-8 year olds.

This book lets us look inside one non-traditional family, a same sex couple and their son. As the children talk, it’s clear this boy lives in a nurturing environment where the biggest issues are the everyday challenges of growing up.

A Tale of Two Daddies
Hardcover – April 28, 2010
by Vanita Oelschlager (Author), Kristin Blackwood (Illustrator)

A Tale of Two Daddies is a playground conversation between two children. The boy says he heard that the girl has two dads. The girl says that is right. She has Daddy and Poppa. True to a child’s curiosity, practical questions follow. “Which dad helps when your team needs a coach? / Which dad cooks you eggs and toast?” To which she answers: “Daddy is my soccer coach / Poppa cooks me eggs and toast.”

A Tale of Two Daddies is intended for 4-5 year olds. It becomes clear that the family bond is unburdened by any cultural discomforts. This book introduces a type of family increasingly visible in our society. Neither flattering nor condemning, this book reflects a child’s practical and innocent look at the adults who nurture and love her.

Compiled by Katie Slivovsky, Exhibit Development Director and LGBTQ Inclusion chair, Chicago Children’s Museum
I Am Jazz Hardcover – September 4, 2014
by Jessica Herthel (Author), Jazz Jennings (Author), Shelagh McNicholas (Illustrator)

The story of a transgender child based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings, who has become a spokesperson for transkids everywhere

"This is an essential tool for parents and teachers to share with children whether those kids identify as trans or not. I wish I had had a book like this when I was a kid struggling with gender identity questions. I found it deeply moving in its simplicity and honesty."—Laverne Cox (who plays Sophia in "Orange is the New Black")

My Princess Boy Hardcover – December 21, 2010
by Cheryl Kladivko (Author), Suzanne DeSimone (Illustrator)

Dyson loves pink, sparkly things. Sometimes he wears dresses. Sometimes he wears jeans. He likes to wear his princess Tiara, even when climbing trees. He's a Princess Boy.

Inspired by the author's son, and by her own initial struggles to understand, this is a heart-warming book about unconditional love and one remarkable family. It is also a call for tolerance and an end to bullying and judgments. The world is a brighter place when we accept everyone for who they are.

Stella Brings the Family Hardcover – May 5, 2015
by Miriam B. Schiffer (Author), Holly Clifton-Brown (Illustrator)

Stella’s class is having a Mother’s Day celebration, but what’s a girl with two daddies to do? It’s not that she doesn’t have someone who helps her with her homework, or tucks her in at night. Stella has her Papa and Daddie who take care of her, and a whole gaggle of other loved ones who make her feel special and supported every day. She just doesn’t have a mom to invite to the party. Fortunately, Stella finds a unique solution to her party problem in this sweet story about love, acceptance, and the true meaning of family.

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Mommy, Mama, and Me Board book – June 9, 2009
by Lesléa Newman (Author), Carol Thompson (Illustrator)

Rhythmic text and illustrations with universal appeal show a toddler spending the day with its mommies. From hide-and-seek to dress-up, then bath time and a kiss goodnight, there’s no limit to what a loving family can do together.

Shares the loving bond between same-sex parents and their children.

Daddy, Papa, and Me Board book – June 9, 2009
by Lesléa Newman (Author), Carol Thompson (Illustrator)

Rhythmic text and illustrations with universal appeal show a toddler spending the day with its daddies. From hide-and-seek to dress-up, then bath time and a kiss goodnight, there’s no limit to what a loving family can do together. Share the loving bond between same-sex parents and their children.

The Family Book Paperback – May 1, 2010
by Todd Parr (Author)

The Family Book celebrates the love we feel for our families and all the different varieties they come in. Whether you have two moms or two dads, a big family or a small family, a clean family or a messy one, Todd Parr assures readers that no matter what kind of family you have, every family is special in its own unique way.

Parr's message about the importance of embracing our differences is delivered in a playful way. With his trademark bold, bright colors and silly scenes, this book will encourage children to ask questions about their own families. Perfect for young children just beginning to read, The Family Book is designed to encourage early literacy, enhance emotional development, celebrate multiculturalism, promote character growth, and strengthen family relationships.

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And Tango Makes Three is the best-selling, heartwarming true story of two penguins who create a nontraditional family.

At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo get the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own.

Selected as an ALA Notable Children’s Book Nominee and a Lambda Literary Award Finalist, “this joyful story about the meaning of family is a must for any library” (School Library Journal, starred review).

Pink is Just A Color and So is Blue

by Niki Bhatia

You’re a boy who likes pink? Great! You like to play with dolls? Fantastical! Your best friend is a girl—and she likes to crash cars, build things, and play pirates? How cool! Playing is about having fun, exploring and learning about the bigger world! Forget about what toys are for girls and what toys are for boys. How else would a boy decide he wants to be a chef one day? How else might a girl get the idea she too could be a fire fighter? We are all different and like different things. What matters is that we are happy and confident. Funny and reassuring, Pink is Just a Color and So is Blue is sure to educate and entertain boys and girls alike. Inspired by the vision of a world where children feel free to explore and be themselves, Pink is Just a Color and So is Blue is fresh take on freedom of personal expression. It is a sweet, gentle lesson about acceptance, tolerance, and having confidence in who you are. The world defined by pink and blue is becoming out-dated, and Bhatia’s humorous story teaches young readers

My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family

by Zach Wahls

A resounding testament to the power of family and a reassurance that there is no wrong way to be who you are.

It has been almost two years since Zach Wahls (then 19 years old) bravely stood up in front of the Iowa House of Representative and defended gay marriage and his family. Wahls proudly proclaimed, “The sexual orientation of my parents has had zero effect on the context of my character,” and his speech instantly went viral and became YouTube’s #1 political video of 2011.

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