

## **Rainbow Family Connections: Embracing LGBTQ Families at Your Library**

### **RECOMMENDED BOARD BOOKS**

Moreno Velo, Lucía. *¡Manu, no!/No, Manu*. Illustrated by Javier Termenón Delgado. Translation by Gwyneth Box. Topka, 2006. Series also includes: *Manu se va a la cama/Manu's Bedtime* and *Manu pone la mesa/Manu Sets the Table*.

Newman, Lesléa. *Daddy, Papa and Me* and *Mama, Mommy and Me*. Illustrated by Carol Thompson. Tricycle Press, 2009.

### **RECOMMENDED PICTUREBOOKS FOR CHILDREN**

Baldacchino, Christine. *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*. Illustrated by Isabelle Malenfant. Groundwood Books, 2014.\*\*

Bey-Clarke, Monica and Cheril N. Clarke. *Keesha and Her Two Moms Go Swimming*. Illustrated by Aiswarya Mukherjee. Dodi Press, 2011.

Bedford, David. *It's a George Thing!* Illustrated by Russell Julian. Egmont UK, 2008. \*\*

Brannen, Sarah. *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*. Putnam, 2008.

Burks, Stephanie. *While You Were Sleeping*. Illustrated by Kelli Bienvenu. Burks Publishing/Trafford, 2004.

Carr, Jennifer. *Be Who You Are!* Illustrated by Ben Rumbach. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2010.

Crowther, Kitty. *Jack and Jim*. Hyperion, 2000.

de Haan, Linda and Stern Nijland. *King & King*. Tricycle Press, 2002.

dePaola, Tomie. *Bonjour, Mr. Satie*. Putnam, 1991.\*\*

dePaola, Tomie. *Oliver Button is a Sissy*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979.\*\*

Ewert, Marcus. *10,000 Dresses*. Illustrated by Rex Ray. Seven Stories Press, 2008.

González, Rigoberto. *Antonio's Card/La tarjeta de Antonio*. Illustrated by Cecilia Concepción Álvarez. Children's Book Press, 2005.

Hoffman, Sarah and Ian. *Jacob's New Dress*. Illus. by Chris Case. Albert Whitman & Co., 2014.\*\*

Horáček, Petr. *Puffin Peter*. Candlewick Press, 2013. (First U.S. edition). \*\*

Kasza, Keiko. *A Mother for Choco*. Penguin Putnam, 1992.\*\*

Kemp, Anna. *Dogs Don't Do Ballet*. Illustrated by Sara Ogilvie. Simon & Schuster, 2010.\*\*

Kirk Daniel. *Ten Things I Love About You*. Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Young Readers, 2013.\*\*

Kushner, Elisabeth. *The Purim Superhero*. Illustrated by Mike Byrne. Kar-Ben Publishing, 2013.

Leaf, Munro. *The Story of Ferdinand*. Illustrated by Robert Lawson. Viking Press, 1936.\*\*

Levine, Arthur A. *Monday Is One Day*. Illustrated by Julian Hector. Scholastic, 2011.

Levy, Elizabeth. *Nice Little Girls*. Illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein. Delacorte Press, 1974.\*\*

Lindenbaum, Pija. *Mini Mia and Her Darling Uncle*. R&S/Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2007.

McAllister, Angela. *Yuck! That's Not a Monster*. Illustrated by Alison Edgson. Good Books, 2010.\*\*

Meyers, Susan. *Everywhere Babies*. Illustrated by Marla Frazee. Harcourt, 2001.

Moreno Velo, Lucía. *El amor de todos los colores/ The Many-Colored Love*. Illustrated by Javier Termenón Delgado. Translation by Gwyneth Box. Topka, 2007.

Newman, Lesléa. *Donovan's Big Day*. Illustrated by Mike Dutton. Tricycle Press, 2011.

Oelschlager, Vanita. *A Tale of Two Daddies*. Illustrated by Karen Blackwood. Vanita Books, 2010. (Also: *A Tale of Two Mommies*. Illustrated by Mike Blanc. 2011).

Parr, Todd. *The Family Book*. Megan Tingley/Little, Brown, 2003 (Also: *The Daddy Book*, *The Mommy Book*, and *It's Okay to be Different*)

Piñán, Berta. *Las cosas que le gustan a Fran*. Illustrated by Antonia Santolaya Ruiz-Clavijo. Hotelpapel Ediciones, 2007. (Text in Spanish with English translation at the end of the book)

Schwartz, Amy. *Willie and Uncle Bill*. Holiday House, 2012.

Sauer, Tammi. *Nugget & Fang: Friends Forever – or Snack Time?*. Illustrated by Michael Slack. Harcourt, 2013. \*\*

Settingington, Ken. *Mom and Mum Are Getting Married*. Illustrated by Alice Priestley. Second Story Press, 2004.

Zolotow, Charlotte. *William's Doll*. Illus by William Pene du Bois. Harper and Row, 1972.\*\*

#### **RECOMMENDED BEGINNING READERS FOR CHILDREN**

Harding, Brenna and Vicki Harding. *My House*. Illustrated by Chris Bray-Cotton. Learn to Include, 2002. Series also includes: *Going to Fair Day*, *The Rainbow Cubby House*, and *Koalas on Parade*.

Howe, James. *Pinky and Rex and the Bully*. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, 1996.\*\*

Pittar, Gill. *Milly, Molly and Different Dads*. Illustrated by Cris Morrell. Milly Molly Books, 2002.

Wyeth, Sharon Dennis. *Tomboy Trouble*. Illustrated by Lynne Woodcock Cravath. Random House, 1998.\*\*

#### **RECOMMENDED CHAPTER BOOKS**

Agnell, Charlotte. *The Accidental Adventures of India McAllister*. Henry Holt, 2010.

Burch, Christian. *The Manny Files*. Atheneum, 2006. (Also: *Hit the Road, Manny*).

dePaola, Tomie. *26 Fairmont Avenue*. Putnam, 1999. (Other recommended titles in this series: *Here We All Are*, *On My Way*, *What a Year!*, and *Why*).\*\*

Federle, Tim. *Better Nate Than Ever*. Simon & Schuster, 2013.\*\*

Ferro, Ursula. *Wishing for Kittens*. Illus. by Ruth Adams. Marti Books, 2006. (Other titles in this series: *Mother's Day on Martha's Vineyard*, *A Pet of My Own*, and *Tanny's Meow*).

Ignatow, Amy. *The Popularity Papers*. Series (1-7). Amulet Books/Abrams, 2010-2014.

Lantz, Frances. *The Day Joanie Frankenhauser Became a Boy*. Dutton, 2005.\*\*

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Riding Freedom*. Scholastic, 1998.\*\*

## RECOMMENDED INFORMATIONAL BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Gonzalez, Maya Christina. *Gender Now Coloring Book: A Learning Adventure for Children and Adults*. (School Edition). Reflection Press, 2011.

Hughes, Susan. *No Girls Allowed: Tales of Daring Women Dressed as Men for Love, Freedom and Adventure*. Illustrated by Willow Dawson. Kids Can Press, 2008.\*\*

Kay, Verla. *Rough, Tough Charley*. Illustrated by Adam Gustavson. Tricycle Press, 2007.\*\*

Krakow, Kari. *The Harvey Milk Story*. Illustrated by David Gardner. Two Lives, 2002.

Kuklin, Susan. *Families*. Hyperion, 2006.

McCarthy, Meghan. *Daredevil: The Daring Life of Betty Skelton*. Simon & Schuster, 2013.\*\*

Richardson, Justin and Peter Parnell. *And Tango Makes Three*. Illustrated by Henry Cole. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Stringer, Lauren. *When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky: Two Artists, Their Ballet, and One Extraordinary Riot*. Harcourt, 2013.\*\*

Thomas, Pat. *This is My Family: A First Look at Same-Sex Parents*. Illus. by Lesley Harker. Barron's, 2012.

Winter, Jonah. *Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude*. Illustrated by Calef Brown. Atheneum, 2009.\*\*

## RECOMMENDED MEDIA

Maxwell, Andrea and Tammy Stoner. *Dottie's Magic Pockets*. Pink Pea, 2007 (Video/DVD)

Scagliotti, John and an Hunt. *Oliver Button is a Star*. Hunt & Scagliotti Productions, 2001. (Video/DVD)

Thomas, Marlo. *Free to be You and Me*. Artista, 1972/2006. (CD/MP3)

Towne-Colley, Margaux and John Edwards. *Buddy G, My Two Moms, and Me: The Lost Rings*. 2007 (DVD)

**\*\* DENOTES THAT THE TITLE WORKS FOR SUBVERSIVE FAMILY STORYTIMES OR INCLUSIVE LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND CAREGIVERS.**

## RESOURCES FOR SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Naidoo, Jamie Campbell. *Rainbow Family Collections: Selecting and Using Children's Books with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Content*. Libraries Unlimited, 2012.

Naidoo, Jamie Campbell. (Winter 2013) "Over the Rainbow and Under the Radar: Library Services and Programs to LGBTQ Families." *Children and Libraries* 11 (3): 34-40.

**Gay-Themed Picture Books for Children** - Created by Patricia Sarles, this extensive website lists numerous children's picture books with LGBT content. Each book includes a cover of the photo and then a blurb about the book from either the Library of Congress, Books in Print, or publisher catalogs. <http://booksforkidsingayfamilies.blogspot.com/>

**Rainbow Families Council** – This Australian volunteer community organization provides information to LGBT adults interested in adopting and starting families. The particularly useful parts of the website are the 'Who's in your family?' information sheets and posters. These attractive full-color, posters and information sheets can be downloaded used in libraries Rainbow Families.

<http://rainbowfamilies.org.au/>

**Welcoming Schools** – Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, this website is filled with lesson plans, teaching points, librarian tips, extensive bibliographies (of books for all ages covering a broad spectrum of LGBTQ topics), and other resources for creating welcoming environments for Rainbow Families. Particularly useful is a free 93-page resource guide.

<http://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/> and <http://www.welcomingschools.org/pages/steps-you-can-take-as-a-librarian>

**GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network)** – Provides suggestions for making schools inclusive for LGBTQ children and families and offers educator guides and lesson plans related to bullying, diversity, and bias. <http://glsen.org/educate/resources>

### PERIODICALS FOR RAINBOW FAMILIES

**Gay Parent Magazine** – This relatively inexpensive magazine, available in both print and online formats, is directed towards LGBTQ parents across the nation. Contents include books reviews, personal parenting stories, information about Rainbow Family vacations and events, and gay-friendly school information. <http://www.gayparentmag.com/>

**Pink Parenting** – Launched in Summer 2011 this UK magazine for LGBTQ parents and Rainbow Families provides parenting tips, new articles, surrogacy and adoption information and more for today's modern queer family. Available in both online and print subscriptions. <http://www.pink-parenting.com/>

**Rainbow Rumpus** – Billed as the only online literary magazine for children with gay and lesbian parents, this interactive and informative website includes book reviews, short stories, e-books, children's art, activities, and more. Rainbow Rumpus has a sister site, Rainbow Riot, that is an online literary magazine just for teens. <http://www.rainbowrumpus.org/> and <http://rainbowriot.org/teens>

### BOOK AWARDS FOR LGBTQ CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**Lambda Literary Awards** - Presented by the Lambda Literary Foundation, these awards celebrate the best in literary fiction and nonfiction books that represent LGBTQ experiences. There are several categories of annual awards for adults and one for children's and young adult titles. Available: <http://www.lambdaliterary.org/category/winners-finalists/> .

**Rainbow Books** – Awarded annually by the ALA's Social Responsibility Roundtable and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT), this booklist includes fiction and nonfiction youth titles that authentically portray LGBTQ topics. Available: <http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/rainbow-books-lists>

**Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Awards** – Presented by the ALA's GLBTRT, this award recognizes youth books that positively and accurately represent the experiences of LGBTQ youth and families. Available: <http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/award>

**Amelia Bloomer List** - Established in 2002 by the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of ALA, this project identifies children's and YA books that have strong feminist content. These books could be used with gender-variant or gender-nonconforming children. Available: <http://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/>

## **PLANNING STORYTIMES INCLUSIVE OF RAINBOW FAMILIES**

### **Suggestions on how to plan children's programs with gay-friendly books that aren't "out there:"**

- ★ Change pronouns while reading a book with androgynous animal characters to include same-sex friendships and relationships or characters that defy gender classifications.
- ★ Use terms such as "parent" or "caregiver" when describing families in books or when referring to families in the library.
- ★ Include books with single parents in your library programs and displays. Single parents can represent many different things to many different children and families.
- ★ Share books with ambiguous family constructs such as multiple fathers, aunt and mother caregivers, etc.
- ★ Invite "out of the box" community guest speakers that defy gender norms such as male nurses, female cops, etc.
- ★ Change the names of characters in books and oral stories/songs to be androgynous such as Rene, Michele, Mel, Pat, Chris, Stevie, Jaime, etc.

## **CREATING WELCOMING SPACES FOR RAINBOW FAMILIES**

- ★ Recognize and address personal prejudices and fears among library staff working with adults and children in Rainbow Families and provide professional development opportunities to learn how to promote respect for Rainbow Families.
- ★ Ensure library staff maintains respectful verbal and nonverbal language when interacting with adults and children in Rainbow Families. This includes interactions during programming and readers advisory but also using respectful language regarding Rainbow families. Do not assume how individuals identify themselves.
- ★ Take advantage of teachable moments to address children's inquiries related to queer issues and Rainbow Families. Know ahead of time how to respond to children's questions about gender diversity and families with two moms, two dads, etc.
- ★ Confront any observed instances of teasing and bullying related to diversity in sexual or gender identity. These could be interactions between children, parents, or even library staff.
- ★ Encourage LGBTQ caregivers to volunteer and participate in library programs for children.
- ★ Collaborate with community agencies that serve children and/or adults in Rainbow Families.
- ★ Display safe zone or rainbow stickers to symbolize a welcoming environment for families using visual cues. Note: These should not be displayed on library materials as such labeling can deter children and adults in Rainbow Families from using the material, particularly if they are not "out" as a Rainbow Family.
- ★ Create visual displays and bulletin boards that include all families, introducing the Rainbow Families along with single parent families, grandparent headed families, stepfamilies, multiracial families, foster families, etc.
- ★ Integrate LGBTQ children's books into regular story times and library programs and display them on bookshelves alongside other children's books.
- ★ Examine library materials for stereotypes and biases such as gender stereotypes, sex role stereotypes, homophobia, etc.