PICTURE BOOKS THAT SHOW DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAMILY

The Family Book by Todd Parr

The Family Book celebrates the love we feel for our families and all the different varieties they come in. Whether you have two mothers 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.

Who’s In a Family by Robert Skutch

Family is important, but who’s in a family? Why, the people who love you the most! This equal opportunity, open-minded picture book has no preconceptions about what makes a family a family. There’s even equal time given to some of children’s favourite animal families. With warm and inviting jewel-tone illustrations, this is a great book for that long talk with a little person on your lap.

King and King by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland

The Crown Kitty and Friends Cordially Invite You to Celebrate a Royal Wedding
King and King and Family by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland

Join newlyweds King Lee and King Bertie on their journey into the noisy jungle. The kings are greeted by wild animal families, but the royal travellers suspect that something more significant awaits them in the trees. King & King soon discover that there's no adventure more wonderful than starting a family of their own. An adoption story for everyone.

The Great Big Book of Families by Mary Hoffman

Mary Hoffman takes a look through children's eyes at the wide varieties of family life: from homes, food, ways of celebrating, schools and holidays to getting around, jobs and housework, from extended families, languages and hobbies to pets and family trees - and she concludes that, for most people, their own family is the best one of all! With Ros Asquith's delightful pictures, this book takes a fresh, optimistic look at families of today.

And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson

Roy and Silo are just like the other penguin couples at the zoo - they bow to each other, walk together and swim together. But Roy and Silo are a little bit different - they're both boys. Then, one day, when Mr Gramzay the zookeeper finds them trying to hatch a stone, he realises that it may be time for Roy and Silo to become parents for real.
Mommy, Mama and Me by Lesléa Newman

This rhythmic book shows 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 by Lesléa Newman

This rhythmic book shows 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.

Mom and Mum Are Getting Married! by Ken Setterington

A celebration of love and family. When Rosie comes home to find her Mom dancing alone in the living room -- on a school day -- she knows something wonderful is about to happen. So when one of her two mothers announces, "Your Mum and I are getting married!" they can’t wait to start planning the big day. Rosie has so many questions. Will she get to be a flower girl? Can she get a new dress? Will there be food and a fabulous wedding cake? At this party, friends, family and fun come together for a joyous celebration of love in a changing world.
**A Tale of Two Mommies by Vanita Oelschlager**

A little girl is curious about a little boy who has two mommies. This book is a conversation between the two kids.

**A Tale of Two Daddies by Vanita Oelschlager**

A little boy is curious about a little girl who has two daddies. This book is a conversation between the two kids.

**Dad David, Baba Chris and ME by Ed Merchant**

Seven-year-old Ben leads a pretty ordinary life, save for the fact he has two dads (Baba Chris and Dad David) who adopted him. The book expresses the emotional turmoil, due to his fear of rejection and concern for his birth parents, which Ben experiences after his adoption. Ben gets teased and bullied at school because he has two Dads. David and Chris go on to explain how two fathers are able to love the same way a mom and dad would.
Josh and Jaz Have Three Mums by Hedi Argent

Mummy Sue and Mummy Fran help the children to understand that every family tree will tell a different story and that life would be boring if they were all the same. Working together, they produce a family tree that Josh and Jaz are truly proud of and one that wins the admiration of all their classmates.

Mom and Dad Glue by Kes Gray

A little boy tries to find a pot of parent glue to stick his mum and dad back together. His parents have come undone and he wants to mend their marriage, stick their smiles back on and make them better. This rhyming story is brilliantly told with a powerful message that even though his parents may be broken, their love for him is not.

Wheels by Shirley Hughes

A picture book about family life in an urban street for children of three years and up. Billy and Carlos each hopes that he will get a new set of wheels for his birthday - and one of them is in for a big surprise.
We Belong Together by Todd Parr

We belong together because....

You needed a home
I had one to share
Now, we are a family

Todd Parr has received hundreds of requests to write a book about adoption. He has approached this challenging matter with humour and sensitivity through his bold and colourful illustrations and unique reassuring messages.

Knock Knock. My Dad’s Dream for Me by Daniel Beaty

In “Knock knock: my dad’s dream for me,” Bryan Collier brings to life Daniel Beaty’s powerful narrative of a son’s longing for his absent father. With his distinctive watercolor and collage technique, Collier captures the nuances of the urban setting and the son’s journey to manhood.
Grandfather Counts by Andrea Cheng

Cheng’s story of a Chinese-speaking grandfather who comes to live with his daughter’s English-speaking family ably communicates the difficulties of the language barrier, and the unanticipated joys that come from working your way through that barrier.

The Storm Whale by Benji Davies

Noi and his father live in a house by the sea, his father works hard as a fisherman and Noi often has only their six cats for company. So when, one day, he finds a baby whale washed up on the beach after a storm, Noi is excited and takes it home to care for it. He tries to keep his new friend a secret, but but there’s only so long you can keep a whale in the bath without your dad finding out. Noi is eventually persuaded that the whale has to go back to the sea where it belongs. For Noi, even though he can’t keep it, the arrival of the whale changes his life for the better - the perfect gift from one friend to another.
In Our Mothers’ House by Patricia Polacco

Marmee, Meema and the kids are just like any other family on the block. In their beautiful house they cook dinner together, they laugh together and they dance together. But some of the other families don’t accept them. They say they are different. How can a family have two mums and no dad? But Marmee and Meema’s house is full of love - and they teach their children that different doesn’t mean wrong. No matter how many mums or dads they have, they are everything a family is meant to be.

Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs by Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds

Harry finds some old dinosaurs in his Grandma’s attic. He cleans them up and makes them his own, carefully (and accurately) naming each one. Harry and his dinosaurs go everywhere together. But one day, after an exciting train ride, Harry accidentally leaves the dinosaurs on the train. Silly, charming illustrations accompany this whimsical text of a child being a child. (One of a series)

Stella’s Starliner by Rosemary Wells

Stella lives in a sparkling home on wheels that’s as silver as a comet in the sky! Her home is called the Starliner, and it has everything Stella and her mama and daddy need to be happy. Until, that is, some big weasels pop up along the road, saying mean things about the Starliner. Daddy hitches their home to a truck and drives it away to a brand-new place, where Stella meets friends who are as enchanted as she is with her shiny home. Happily, one person’s old tin can is truly another person’s silver palace!
Picture Books that Celebrate Diversity

Whoever You Are by Mem Fox

Every day all over the world, children are laughing and crying, playing and learning, eating and sleeping. They may not look the same. But inside, they are alike. Available for the first time as a board book, this is an inspiring celebration for all children, whoever they are.

It’s Okay To Be Different by Todd Parr

It’s Okay to Be Different delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format featuring Todd Parr’s trademark bold, bright colours and silly scenes. Targeted to young children first beginning to read, this book will inspire kids to celebrate their individuality through acceptance of others and self-confidence.

Something Else by Kathryn Cave

A simple story, about a small creature who does his best to join in with the others. But he’s different. No matter how he tries, he just doesn’t belong. Then Something turns up and wants to be friends. But Something Else isn’t sure he’s like him at all...
All Kinds of People by Emma Damon

People come in all different shapes and sizes and have different interests and hobbies, and this lift-the-flap book celebrates all kinds of children in a warm, humorous way.

What I Like About Me! by Alia Zobel-Nolan

What I Like about Me! Explores the idea that in a world where fitting in is the norm, being different is what makes a person special.

Clotty Malotty and all her Friends

A Collection of Rhymes and Jokes with Artwork by Traveller and Settled Children from Co.Dublin
I am Jazz by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers.

All I Want To Be is Me by Phyllis Rothblatt

This book reflects the diverse ways that young children experience and express their gender. It gives voice to the feelings of children who don't fit into narrow gender stereotypes, and who just want to be free to be themselves. This book gives children a chance to learn about gender diversity, embracing different ways to be, and being a true friend.

(Available on amazon.com)
All Kinds of Beliefs by Emma Damon

People have all different kinds of beliefs, wear different kinds of clothes and pray in different ways and in different places. This title in the "All Kinds of..." series celebrates all kinds of children with all kinds of beliefs in a warm, open way and through engaging flaps and popups.

Dan and Diesel by Charlotte Hudson

Dan's dog, Diesel, is a wonder dog. When Dan is with Diesel he can go anywhere. He can go shopping at the market. He can play jazz in the Boogaloo band. He can climb mountains and draw pictures in his head. Together, they can conquer the world!

But one day, Diesel is whisked away in a big black van . . .

Only when Dan and Diesel are finally reunited does it become apparent that Dan is blind and Diesel is his guide dog.
A Friend Like Simon by Kate Gaynor

This picture book introduces autism. When an autistic child joins a mainstream school, many children can find it difficult to understand and cope with a student that is somewhat ‘different’ to them. This story encourages other children to be mindful and patient of the differences that exist and to also appreciate the positive contribution that an autistic child can make to the group.

Marshall Armstrong is New to Our School by David Mackintosh

Marshall Armstrong is new to school and definitely stands out from the crowd, with his pale skin, perpetual hats, and special “space food” lunches that come in silver wrappers. He doesn’t play sports, and he doesn’t watch television. So when he invites everyone in class over for his birthday party, it’s sure to be a disaster. Or is it? Marshall Armstrong might have a trick or two up his long, “sun protective” sleeve. David Mackintosh’s story, with its bold design and sharply humorous observations, is a highly original take on the popular theme of the difficulties of being the new kid and making friends.
Elmer by David McKee

Elmer the elephant is bright-colored patchwork all over. No wonder the other elephants laugh at him! If he were ordinary elephant color, the others might stop laughing. That would make Elmer feel better, wouldn't it? The surprising conclusion of David McKee's comical fable is a celebration of individuality and the power of laughter.

Elmer the elephant, a colorful character because of his patchwork hide and sense of humor, tries to blend in with the herd, but soon realizes that he's happiest just being himself. "McKee's gentle humor and love of irony are in full force in this celebration of individuality and laughter."

-- Publisher's Weekly.

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild by Peter Brown

Mr. Tiger lives in a perfectly fine world of prim and proper ladies and gentlemen. One day, the stiff suits, dainty teas, and Victorian manners begin to bore him... and he has a very wild idea. This “it’s okay to be different” story stands out from other picture books on the topic thanks to Brown’s delightfully clever illustrations and masterful compositions. Children will appreciate Mr. Tiger’s transformation and the way his friends eventually accept his (and their own) uniqueness.
The Harvey Milk Story by Kari Krakow

“On a rainy day in January, on the steps of San Francisco’s City Hall, Harvey Milk was sworn into office, the first openly gay elected city official in the United States of America. Harvey Milk had made history.”

In making history that day, Minnie Milk’s intelligent, energetic and courageous son showed the world that by not being afraid to be yourself, you can give others the courage to be proud of who they are. In this picture-book biography of an important gay-rights figure, Krakow (an elementary school teacher for over twenty years) honestly looks at Milk’s life in the broader context of discrimination and hope.
Books that counter gender stereotypes

**Oliver Button Is A Sissy** by Tomie dePaola

Oliver Button does not engage in the traditional activities that boys do, and so is faced with teasing and manecalling from his classmates. In the end, his resilience and determined nature quietens the voices of his detractors.

**William’s Doll** by Charlotte Zolotow

William wants a doll - to hug, to feed, to tuck in, and kiss goodnight. "Don’t be a creep," says his brother. "Sissy, sissy," chants the boy next door. His father buys him trains and a basketball - but not the doll that William really wants. Then one day, someone comes along who understands why William should have his doll.
Mister Seahorse by Eric Carle

A stunning picture book from Eric Carle about Mister Seahorse and other 'male mothers', with special acetate pages that hide fish behind rocks and reeds. As he floats through the sea, Mister Seahorse meets a Mr Stickleback, Mr Tilapia, Mr Kurtus and many other fish fathers caring for their eggs and babies in the most surprising ways.

10,000 Dresses by Marcus Ewert

In her dreams, Bailey is a young girl. Every night she dreams about magical dresses. Unfortunately, when Bailey wakes up, nobody wants to hear about her beautiful dreams. This is because Bailey is a boy and shouldn’t be thinking about dresses at all. Then Bailey meets an older girl who is touched and inspired by Bailey’s dreams and courage. Eventually they start making dresses together that represent Bailey’s dreams coming to life.

Ride On Rapunzel - Fairytales for Feminists

A collection of fairytales retold from a feminist perspective - the female characters in these stories are more than just princesses who need rescuing!

(For read aloud)
The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch

Princess Elizabeth is all set to marry Prince Ronald when a dragon attacks the castle and kidnaps Ronald. In resourceful and humorous fashion, Elizabeth finds the dragon, outsmarts him, and rescues Ronald—who is less than pleased at her un-princess-like appearance.

Princess Smartypants by Babette Cole

Princess Smartypants does not want to get married. She enjoys being a Ms. But being a rich and pretty princess means that all the princes want her to be their Mrs. Find out how Princess Smartypants fights to preserve her independence in this hilarious fairy-tale-with-a-difference.

Long Live Princess Smartypants by Babette Cole

Princess Smartypants has decided she'd like to have a baby but doesn't want the husband to go with it. The King and Queen will not hear of such a plan and attempt to take her mind off it by keeping her busy. However, when she finally gets the baby, it is kidnapped by Princess Smartypants's enemy, Prince Rottenghut. Princess Smartypants launches a counter-attack to rescue her baby - will she see her baby again?
Princess Smartypants Breaks the rules by Babette Cole

When the Queen packs off Princess Smartypants to finishing school, it seems that our favourite royal might become a perfect princess after all . . . huh, no chance! Instead, Princess Smartypants makes her own school rules and teaches those other do-goody princesses just exactly how to have fun.

Ballerino Nate by Kimberly Bradley

Nate has the heart of a dancer, and he is determined to learn ballet. Even his older brother, Ben, can’t change his mind with his claims that “boys don’t dance.” Or can he? When Ben tells Nate that he’ll have to wear pink shoes and a dress, Nate becomes awfully worried. And when he’s the only boy in his ballet class, he begins to think that Ben is right: Maybe boys don’t dance.

Exuberant and true-to-childhood, this is a warm and funny story about sibling squabbles, the joy of ballet, and best of all, grabbing hold of your dreams.
The Basket Ball by Esmé Raji Codell

This rhyming picture book is about a girl named Lulu who prefers playing basketball to playing with dolls. In order to find more girls like herself, she decides to host the 'Basket Ball', where girls from around the globe wear sequined basketball jerseys and high-top heeled sneakers instead of ball gowns. Together they play some hoops and learn more about their favourite game. This is a fun and commercial story by a best-selling and award-winning author.

My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis

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 heartwarming 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.
Don’t Kiss the Frog!: Princess Stories with Attitude

Perfect for girls who love tiaras, ball-gowns, and happy endings—but also sports, silly jokes, and being different. Featuring the work of seven writers and three illustrators, this anthology of “princess stories with attitude” will make kids laugh as they encounter a bevy of sleepy, sporty, clumsy, brave, resourceful, and curious princesses. The exuberant typographic design is an excellent match for the story-telling style and colorful artwork.

The Sissy Duckling by Harvey Fierstein

Illustrated by Henry Cole Adapted from an award-winning HBO animated special written by 3-time Tony Award-winning playwright and actor Harvey Fierstein (Torch Song Trilogy, Mrs. Doubtfire, Bullets over Broadway), this is a heart-warming tale about learning to embrace the special qualities we possess. Instead of building forts and playing sports like other boy ducklings, Elmer wants to bake cakes and put on the halftime show. He is great a big sissy. But when his father is wounded by a hunter, Elmer proves that the biggest sissy can also be the greatest hero.