Diverse Books That Celebrate Adoption

**A Mother for Choco.** Keiko Kasza. (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.

**And Tango Makes Three.** Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell. (K – 2) Penguins Roy and Silo at New York’s Central Park Zoo, keep putting a rock in their nest and try to hatch it. The zookeeper gives them a real egg that needs care. The penguins take turns sitting on it until it hatches, and Tango is born.

**Counting by 7s.** Holly Goldberg Sloan. (6 – 8) Follow Willow on her journey towards family after her adoptive parents die in a car crash.

**Dear Child.** John Farrell. (Pre-K – K) Features three families, a two-mom adoptive family, a single father and a mom and dad family expressing their wonder and joy of having a young child.

**Forever, or a Long, Long Time.** Caela Carter. (3 – 7) Flora and Julian are a team. They have to be: after moving from foster home to foster home, the only permanence is in each other.

**Half a World Away.** Cynthia Kadohata. (5 – 8) Jaden is adopted, considers himself an ‘epic fail’ so that is why his family is traveling to Kazakhstan to adopt a new baby—to replace him. Instead Jaden discovers the transformative power of love.
**Harriet Gets Carried Away.** Jessie Sima. (Pre-K – K) Harriet, an African American girl, with two dads loves costumes and can get a little carried away. A fun story about remembering where you belong, no matter how far you roam, or what you’re wearing when you get there.

**Home at Last.** Vera B. Williams and Chris Raschka. (1 – 3) After Lester is adopted by Daddy Albert and Daddy Rich, he develops a big problem—he can’t fall asleep. It’s the sweet dog, Wincka, who finally solves the problem and helps Lester feel home at last.

**Locomotion.** Jacqueline Woodson. (5 – 8) In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school.

**One For The Murphys.** Lynda Mullaly Hunt. (5 – 8) When Carley becomes a foster child after she and her mom are beaten, she sees a family life she never thought existed. Despite her resistance, she starts to feel like she belongs. But then her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live.

**The Family Book.** Todd Parr. (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.

**The Great Big Book of Families.** Mary Hoffman. (Pre-K – 3) Features all kinds of families and their lives together. Each spread showcases one aspect of home life - from houses and holidays, to schools and pets, to feelings and family trees.

**The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher.** Dana Alison Levy (3 – 5) From camping trips to scary tales told in the dark, from new schools to old friends, from imaginary cheetahs to very real skunks, the Fletchers’ school year is anything but boring with four brothers, two dads, and one new neighbor who just might ruin everything.

**Orphan Train Girl.** Christina Baker Kline. (3 – 7) Molly has been in foster care since she was eight. When she’s forced to help an elderly woman, she soon realizes that she has more in common with the woman than she thought. Vivian was once an orphan, too—an Irish immigrant to New York City who was put on a so-called "orphan train" to the Midwest with hundreds of other children.
Patina. Jason Reynolds. (4 – 8) In the second book in this series, Patina runs for her school’s track team, but she doesn’t just run to win. She runs to escape—escape the mean kids at her new school, escape the fact that she and her sister can’t live with their mom anymore, escape everything. Also see: Ghost, Sunny and Lu.

The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang. Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Two fifth-grade best friends are determined to uncover the secrets of popularity by observing, recording, discussing, and replicating the behaviors of the “cool” girls. Notebook format with a lot of illustrations. Julie has two dads. Series of seven books.

A Tale of Two Daddies. Vanita Oelschlager. (Pre-K – 1) A young girl answers a friend’s straightforward questions about having two fathers. The story ends with simply, “Who is your dad when you’re sad and need some love?” Both, of course.

The War that Saved My Life. Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. (4 – 7) Ada has never left her apartment because of her mother’s shame of Ada’s twisted foot. But when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada sneaks out to join him. While Susan is still mourning her partner, Becky, she is forced to take them in. Historical fiction that is equal parts adventure and a moving tale of family and identity. Sequel: The War I Finally Won.

We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families. Todd Parr. (Pre-K – 1) 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.

Wish. Barbara O’Connor. (4 – 6) about a girl who, with the help of a true-blue friend, a big-hearted aunt and uncle, and the dog of her dreams, unexpectedly learns the true meaning of family in the least likely of places.

Yafi’s Family: an Ethiopian boy’s journey of love, loss and adoption. Linda Pettitt. (1 – 3) A celebration of the love for each child that birth families and adoptive parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters share.

The Year of the Baby. Andrea Cheng (1 – 3) Anna’s family has adopted a baby girl from China. She wants to learn how to be a good sister. But this proves challenging when the doctor warns that the baby isn’t thriving. Can Anna and her best friends create a science project that saves the day? Part of a new series of early chapter books.