Diverse Picture Books
Featuring All Kinds of Families

**All Are Welcome.** Alexandra Penfold. (Pre-K – 1) Follow a diverse group of children from all kinds of families through a day at school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. It lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, they are welcome in their school.

**All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel.** Dan Yaccarino. (K – 2) The story of four generations of an Italian American family. It begins with an immigrant who came through Ellis Island with big dreams, a small shovel, and his parents' advice: "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family."

**Alma and How She Got Her Name / Alma y cómo obtuvo su nombre.** Juana Martinez-Neal. (Pre-K – 2) What’s in a name? For one little girl, her very long name tells the vibrant story of where she came from — and who she may one day be. English and Spanish editions.

**Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart.** Vera B. Williams. (1 – 4) Poems tells how two sisters help each other deal with life while their mother is working and their father is in jail. Friendships and support shine through.

**And Tango Makes Three.** Justin Richardson. (Pre-K – 2) The story of two famous dads — penguins Roy and Silo from New York’s Central Park Zoo. The two take turns sitting on an egg until it hatches, and Tango is born.

**Antonio’s Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio.** Rigoberto Gonzales. (1 – 4) As Mother’s Day approaches, Antonio must choose whether—or how—to express his connection and love for his mother and her partner, Leslie.
Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic. Ginnie Lo. (Pre-K – 1) Author and illustrator (sisters) retell how their aunt, a Chinese immigrant to the Midwest, created a family tradition as a way to overcome homesickness for China.

Bird. Zetta Elliot. (3 – 5) A touching look at a young boy coping with real-life troubles from the impact of his older brother’s drug addiction on his family and his beloved grandfather’s death. With drawing and the help of his grandfather’s friend, Bird finds his own special somethin’ and wings to fly.

The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage. Selina Alko. (1 – 3) For most students these days it would come as a surprise to know that before 1967, they could not marry a person of a race different from their own – before the Supreme Court issued its decision in Loving v. Virginia.

A Chair for My Mother / Un sillón para mi mamá. Vera B. Williams. (K – 3) After a fire destroys their home, Rosa, her mother, and grandmother save until they can afford to buy a big, comfortable chair for all three of them. English and Spanish editions.

The Different Dragon. Jennifer Bryan. (Pre-K – 1) Shows how the wonderful curiosity and care of a little boy, with some help from his two moms, can lead to magical places with a dragon who is tired of being tough.

A Different Pond. Bao Phi. (K – 1) Childhood memories of Vietnamese-American poet Phi offer a portrait of a predawn father-son fishing trip, one of several ways the child’s immigrant parents find ways to care for and feed their family.

Drawn Together. Minh Lê. (Pre-K – K) When a young boy visits his grandfather, their lack of a common language leads to confusion, frustration, and silence. But as they sit down to draw together, something magical happens, the two form a bond that goes beyond words.
Dreamers. Yuyi Morales. (Pre-K – 3) In 1994, Yuyi Morales left her home in Xalapa, Mexico and came to the U.S. with her infant son. She left behind nearly everything she owned, but she didn’t come empty-handed. She brought her strength, her work, and her dreams as she made her home in a new place. Spanish edition: Soñadores.


Families. Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly. (Pre-K – K) Big or small, similar or different, there are all kinds of families featured in the many photos. This inclusive look can help children see beyond their experiences and begin to understand others.

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.


Fly Away Home. Eve Bunting. (1 – 5) A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal trying not to be noticed, is given hope when a trapped bird finally finds its way out.

Grandfather’s Journey. Allen Say. (K – 2) Personal yet expressing universally held emotions, a tale of one man’s love for two countries and his constant desire to be in both places.
The Great Big Book of Families. Mary Hoffman. (Pre-K – 2) 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.

Hairs / Pelitos. Sandra Cisneros. (Pre-K – 1) A young girl describes how each person in the family has hair that looks and acts different. The paintings reflect the diversity among the family and personalities. Bilingual.

Halmoni’s Day. Edna Coe Bercaw. (Pre-K – 2) Jennifer is worried about her Korean grandmother’s visit to school because Halmoni does not speak English and wears traditional Korean dress. The visit goes perfectly, and Jennifer learns more about her grandmother’s life story as well.

Happy Like Soccer. Marybeth Boelts. (K – 2) Her auntie works on the day that Sierra’s soccer games are held, but when a match is rescheduled due to rain, Sierra takes a bold step.

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.

Heather Has Two Mommies, 25th Anniversary Edition. Lesléa Newman. (Pre-K – K) Heather’s favorite number is two – two arms, two legs, and two pets. And she also has two mommies. As school begins, Heather sees that, "the most important thing about a family is that all the people in it love one another."

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 feels home at last.
I Love Saturdays y domingos. Alma Flor Ada. (K – 2) An affectionate portrait of a bilingual girl's weekend visits to her two sets of grandparents. She does different things in each place, goes on different outings and hears different stories reflecting her grandparents' heritages.

In Daddy's Arms I AM TALL: African Americans Celebrating Fathers. Javaka Steptoe. (Pre-K – 3) Fatherhood is celebrated with honor, humor and grace in this intergenerational collection of poetry by new and established African-American writers.

Islandborn / Lola. Junot Diaz. (Pre-K – 1) When her teacher asks the class to draw a picture of where they're from, Lola can't remember the Island. So she interviews the people in her neighborhood to find out about it. English and Spanish editions.

Jacob's New Dress. Sarah and Ian Hoffman. (Pre-K – 2) Jacob loves playing dress-up, when he can be anything he wants to be. Jacob wants to wear a dress. Can he convince his parents to let him wear one to school? Speaks to the challenges faced by boys (and their families) who don't identify with traditional gender roles.

The Keeping Quilt. Patricia Polacco. (K – 3) Traces the history of a quilt made from bits of Polacco's ancestors' clothing connecting generations from one to the next.

Kite Flying. Grace Lin. (Pre-K – 1) Celebrates the Chinese tradition of kite making and kite flying and lovingly depicts a family bonded by this ancient and modern pleasure. Beautiful signature illustrations by Lin.

Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me. Daniel Beaty. (K – 2) Shows the love that an absent parent can leave behind, and the strength that children find in themselves as they grow up and follow their dreams.
**Last Stop on Market Street / Última parada de la calle Market.** Matt De La Peña. (K – 1) An energetic ride through a bustling city highlights the wonderful perspective only a grandparent and grandchild can share. English and Spanish editions

**Love to Mamá: A Tribute to Mothers.** Pat Mora (1 – 5) Thirteen poets write with joy, humor and love about the powerful bond between mothers, grandmothers and children. The writers include men and women who represent a wide spectrum of Latino/a voices. Bilingual.

**Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/ Marisol McDonald No Combina.** Monica Brown. (Pre-K – 2) Marisol McDonald, a biracial, nonconformist, soccer-playing pirate-princess with brown skin and red hair, celebrates her uniqueness. Bilingual.

**Muskrat Will be Swimming.** Cheryl Savageau. (1 – 5) A heartwarming tale of the lesson a girl learns from a Seneca creation story her grandfather tells her — a lesson of knowing who you are and staying strong in the face of hurtful criticism.

**My Abuelita.** Tony Johnston. (K – 2) Abuelita’s hair is the color of salt. She booms out words as wild as blossoms blooming. A celebration of family, imagination, and the power of story.

**My Brother Charlie.** Holly Robinson Peete. (K – 2) Callie is very proud of her brother Charlie. He’s good at so many things. But sometimes Charlie gets very quiet and his words get locked inside him. A sister’s story of living with a brother who has autism.

**The Name Jar.** Yangsook Choi. (K – 2) The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her.
The New Small Person. Lauren Child. (Pre-K – 2) Elmore Green starts life as an only child. But one day everything changes, when the new small person comes along. Gets to the heart of a child’s evolving emotions about becoming a big brother or sister.

Night Catch. Brenda Ehrmantraut. (K – 2) When a soldier’s work takes him halfway around the world, he enlists the help of the North Star for a nightly game of catch with his son.

One Family. George Shannon. (Pre-K – 2) While the text looks at numbers and the concept of “one” – one batch of cookies, one family, one world – the images portray a diverse range of people and families – multigenerational, interracial, gay.

One of a Kind, Like Me / Único Como Yo. Laurin Mayeno. (Pre-K – 1) Tomorrow is the school parade, and Danny knows exactly what he will be: a princess. A sweet story about unconditional love and the beauty of individuality.

Over the River and Through the Woods. Linda Ashman. (Pre-K – 1) The classic song gets a fresh new twist! The fun begins when Grandma and Grandpa send invitations to their far-flung, modern, and multiracial family.

A Piece of Home. Jeri Watts. (K – 2) A story of immigration where Hee Jun and his family slowly adjust to their new life in West Virginia after moving from Korea.

Stella Brings the Family. Miriam B. Schiffer. (Pre-K – 1) Stella’s class is having a Mother’s Day celebration, but what’s a girl with two daddies to do? Fortunately, Stella finds a unique solution to her party problem in this sweet story about love, acceptance, and the true meaning of family.
A Tale of Two Daddies. Vanita Oelschlager. (Pre-K – 1) A young girl answers a friend’s straightforward questions about what it is like to have two dads. The story ends with simply, “Who is your dad when you’re sad and need some love?” Both, of course. Also see: A Tale of Two Mommies.

This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration. Jacqueline Woodson. (1 – 4) A found piece of rope binds a family together through three generations as they journey from South Carolina to Brooklyn.

Thunder Boy Jr. Sherman Alexie. (K – 2) Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that’s all his own. In the Native American tradition, he and his dad set out to pick one based on who he is. Celebrates the special relationship between father and son.

The Two Mrs. Gibsons. Toyomi Igus. (Pre-K – 2) A young girl tells of her very different but loving relationships with her Japanese-American mother and her African-American grandmother.

Visiting Day. Jacqueline Woodson. (1 – 3). As a little girl and her grandmother get ready for visiting day, her father, who adores her but is in prison, gets ready, too. The families who take the long bus ride upstate to visit loved ones share hope and comfort with each other.

Two White Rabbits / Dos conejos blancos. Jairo Buitrago. (Pre-K – 1) In this moving and timely story, a young child describes what it is like to be a migrant as she and her father travel north toward the U.S. border. English and Spanish editions.

Under My Hijab. Hena Khan. (K – 1) A young girl observes six very different women in her life who each wear the hijab in a unique way. This book honors the diverse lives of contemporary Muslim women and girls, their love for each other, and their pride in their culture and faith.
We Are Like the Clouds / Somos como las nubes. Jorge Argueta. (1 – 7)
Why are young people leaving their country to walk to the United States to seek a new, safe home? Over 100,000 such children have left Central America. This book of poetry helps us to understand why and what it is like to be them.

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.


When Aidan Became a Big Brother. Kyle Lukoff and Kaylani Juanita. (Pre-K – 2) When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl, but as he grew older, he realized he was a trans boy. When he finds out he is going to be a big brother, he learns the most important thing about being an older sibling: how to love with his whole self.