TODAY’S FAMILIES: BOOKS WITH TWO MOMS AND TWO DADS

DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE FAMILIES

Families. Susan Kuklin. (4 – 5) With interviews color photos, this shows the diversity of families in America. Includes mixed-race, immigrant, two-dad, two-mom and single parent families and families for whom religion is a focal point.

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.

Families, Families, Families! Suzanne and Max Lang. (Pre-K – K) A host of silly animals represent all kinds of families. Depicted as portraits, framed and hung, these goofy creatures offer a warm celebration of family love.

The Great Big Book of Families. Mary Hoffman. (Pre-K – 3) Features all kinds of families with 2-page spreads showcasing one aspect of home life - from houses and holidays, to schools and pets, to feelings and family trees.

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.

We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families. Todd Parr. (Toddler – 1) This book explores the ways that people can choose to come together as a family. It’s about sharing your home and sharing your heart to make a family that belongs together.

PICTURE BOOKS

And Tango Makes Three. Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell. (Pre-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.

The Different Dragon. Jennifer Bryan. (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.

Donovan’s Big Day. Lesléa Newman. (Pre-K – 2) Captures the excitement of a young boy as his family prepare for the boy’s two moms’ wedding. A picture book about love, family, and marriage.

The Flower Girl Wore Celery. Meryl G. Gordon. (Pre-K – 1) Emma can't wait to be the flower girl. She'll wear a celery dress and walk down the aisle with the ring bear and happy bride and groom. Or at least, that's what Emma assumes. But nothing turns out to be quite what she’s expecting.

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Heather Has Two Mommies. Lesléa Newman. (Pre-K – K) 25th Anniversary Edition. 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 feel at home at last.

Keesha's South African Adventure. Cheril N Clarke and Monica Bey-Clarke. (Pre-K – 2) After learning about South Africa in school, the inquisitive and lighthearted Keesha dreams of going to see it for herself. She gets the surprise of a lifetime when her two moms decide to take her there.

King and King. Linda de Haan. (Pre-K – 2) The queen made up her mind that it was time for the prince to marry and become king before the end of the summer. Many princesses came to visit but no one was quite right — until another sweet prince came along.

Mommy, Mama, and Me. Lesléa Newman. (Toddler) Rhythmic text and illustrations show a toddler spending the day with their 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. (Also see: Daddy, Papa, and Me.)

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 questions about what it is like to have two fathers. The boy asks straightforward questions. The story ends with simply, "Who is your dad when you’re sad and need some love?" Both, of course.

Uncle Bobby's Wedding. Sarah S. Brannen. (Pre-K – 2) Everyone is happy but the young girl who fears losing her favorite uncle when he gets married until she sees she is really gaining a new uncle.

Middle Grade Books

The Best Man. Richard Peck. (3 – 5) With humor and insight, Newbery Medalist, Richard Peck, follows a boy from elementary school to middle school navigating school and family dynamics. Starts with a wedding disaster and ends with a great one.

Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-A-Lot. Dan Pilkey. (2 – 4) When George and Harold try to avert disaster, they travel into the future and seek the help of their adult selves. Harold is pictured with his husband and their kids.
Luv Ya Bunches. Lauren Myracle. (4 – 6) A funny, honest depiction of the shifting alliances and rivalries between girls that shape school days. Written with a mix of instant messages, blog posts, and straight narrative. Four diverse 5th grade girls come together in friendship. One of the girls has two moms. First in a series of Flower Power books.

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. Meet the Fletchers: four boys, two dads, and one new neighbor who just might ruin everything. Continues with The Family Fletcher Takes Rock Island.

Playground: A Mostly True Story of a Former Bully. Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Laura Moser. (6 – 9) A realistic look at bullying from the perspective of an urban young teen boy in middle school. Looks at the boy’s feelings as both a target and perpetrator of bullying. Also deals with divorce and gay parenting. Some explicit language.

The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang. Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Fifth graders, Lydia and Julie, are determined to uncover the secrets of popularity by observing, recording, discussing, and replicating the behaviors of the “cool” girls. Julie has two dads. Seven books in the series. Book 2 takes on bullying.

The Year of Billy Miller. Kevin Henkes. (1 – 2) Follow along as Billy learns to navigate 2nd grade with his stay-at-home dad, his busy working mom and his cute (but annoying) little sister. From the complications of a diorama to a poetry slam on family, Billy makes it through the year. A classmate has two moms.

This Would Make a Good Story Someday. Dana Alison Levy. (4 – 6) Sara Johnston-Fischer loves her family. But that doesn’t mean she’s thrilled when her summer plans are upended for a surprise cross-country train trip with her two moms, her two sisters. But, Sara finds herself changing along with the landscape outside the train windows.