



# All Kinds of Families

## Recommended Book List

### Infant–Preschool

**Love Makes a Family-** Sophie Beer

Love is baking a special cake. Love is lending a helping hand. Love is reading one more book. In this exuberant board book, many different families are shown in happy activity, from an early-morning wake-up to a kiss before bed. Whether a child has two moms, two dads, one parent, or one of each, this simple preschool read-aloud demonstrates that what's most important in each family's life is the love the family members share. (Ages 0-3)

**All Kinds of Families-** Suzanne Lang

Lots of nontraditional family structures are celebrated in this super-fun and super-accessible board book! Kids will love finding their own family represented, no matter if they have two moms, one grandpa, or just a cousin named Doug.

**What Is a Family?-** Cottage Door Press

Nothing is more precious than a loving family! This heartwarming story celebrates the unique bond families share told in lively illustrations and rhyming text sure to keep little ones engaged and entertained. Sweet animal families fill the pages touching on themes of support, adventure, laughter, helping, comfort, guidance, bravery, and encouragement. What's a family all about, you ask? They help you explore the world, cheer you on when you need encouragement, and lift your spirits when life gets a little hard. Even friends can be family! Big and small, anywhere there's love, there's family!

**And Tango Makes Three-** Justin Richardson

At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo got the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own. (Ages 2-5)

### Early Elementary

**Just the Way We Are-** Jessica Shirvington and Claire Robertson

A one-of-a-kind book that celebrates families of EVERY kind! Meet Anna, Chiara, Henry, Izzy and Jack. Their families might not look like your family, but that's okay ... they're perfect, just the way they are!

**Who's In My Family?: All About Our Families-** Robbie H. Harris

Join Nellie and Gus and their family — plus all manner of other families — for a day at the zoo, where they see animal families galore! To top off their day, Nellie and Gus invite friends and relatives for a fun dinner at home. Accessible, humorous, and full of charming illustrations depicting families of many configurations, this engaging story interweaves conversations between the siblings and a matter-of-fact text, making it clear to every child that whoever makes up your family, it is perfectly normal — and totally wonderful. (Ages 0-8)

**A Family Is a Family Is a Family-** Sara O'Leary

When a teacher asks the children in her class to think about what makes their families special, the answers are all different in many ways — but the same in the one way that matters most of all. One child is worried that her family is just too different to explain, but listens as her classmates talk about what makes their families special. One is raised by a grandmother, and another has two dads. One is full of step-siblings, and another has a new baby. As one by one, her classmates describe who they live with and who loves them — family of every shape, size and every kind of relation — the child realizes that as long as her family is full of caring people, her family is special.





## Early Elementary Continued

**Heather Has Two Mommies-** Leslea Newman

Heather's favorite number is two. She has two arms, two legs, two pets—and two mommies. When Heather goes to school for the first time, someone asks her about her daddy, but Heather doesn't have a daddy. Then something interesting happens. When Heather and her classmates all draw pictures of their families, not one drawing is the same. (Ages 3-7)

**Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale-** Karen Katz

Over the Moon by Karen Katz is a magical, reassuring story of one adoptive family's beginnings, told in words and pictures that are just right for the youngest child. (Ages 4-8)

**I Am Whole-** Shola Oz

I Am Whole is a delightful picture book to celebrate children of mixed backgrounds and cultures. Written with love to embrace the differences that come with being multi-racial, including language, family and cultural traditions. This book encourages children to embrace their diversity and recognize that such differences make us whole. (Ages 0-7)

**Stella Brings the Family-** Miriam B. Schiffer

Stella's class is having a Mother's Day celebration, but what's a girl with two daddies to do? It's not that she doesn't have someone who helps her with her homework, or tucks her in at night. Stella has her Papa and Daddy who take care of her, and a whole gaggle of other loved ones who make her feel special and supported every day. She just doesn't have a mom to invite to the party. Fortunately, Stella finds a unique solution to her party problem in this sweet story about love, acceptance, and the true meaning of family. (Ages 5-8)

## Upper Elementary/Middle School

**Blended-** Sharon Draper

Eleven-year-old Isabella's blended family is more divided than ever in this story about divorce and racial identity. (Ages 8-12)

\*Please review possible trigger warnings

**The List of Things That Will Not Change-** Rebecca Stead

After her parents' divorce, Bea's life became different in many ways. But she can always look back at the list she keeps in her green notebook to remember the things that will stay the same. The first and most important: Mom and Dad will always love Bea, and each other. When Dad tells Bea that he and his boyfriend, Jesse, are getting married, Bea is thrilled. Bea loves Jesse, and when he and Dad get married, she'll finally (finally!) have what she's always wanted--a sister. Even though she's never met Jesse's daughter, Sonia, Bea is sure that they'll be "just like sisters anywhere." As the wedding day approaches, Bea will learn that making a new family brings questions, surprises, and joy. (Ages 8-12)

**Hey, Kiddo: A Graphic Novel-** Jarrett J. Krosoczka

In kindergarten, Jarrett Krosoczka's teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery -- Jarrett doesn't know where to find him, or even what his name is. Jarrett lives with his grandparents -- two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along. Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father. (Ages 12+)

## Parents and Caregivers

**No Family is Perfect: A Guide to Embracing the Messy Reality-** Lucy Blake

Wherever, whenever and however you learnt about family, it's likely that you have unshakeable answers to these questions. In this revelatory new book, family researcher Lucy Blake shows that, whatever your assumptions are, they are almost certainly wrong and probably doing damage to your closest relationships.

**We Are Family-** Susan Golombok

The past few decades have seen extraordinary change in the idea of a family. The unit once understood to include two straight parents and their biological children has expanded vastly—same-sex marriage, adoption, IVF, sperm donation, and other forces have enabled new forms to take shape. Golombok explores the novel moral questions that changing families create, and ultimately makes a powerful argument that the bond between family members, rather than any biological or cultural factor, is what ensures a safe and happy future.