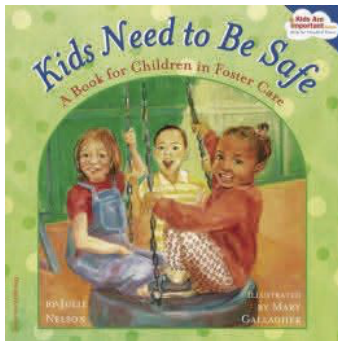


FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION-FRIENDLY CHILDREN'S BOOKS

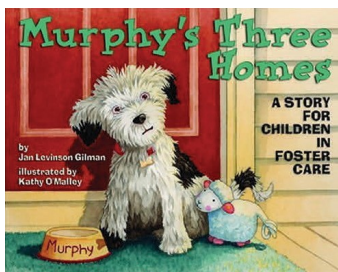


Kids Need to Be Safe: A Book for Children in Foster Care

Author: Julie Nelson

Kids are important...They need safe places to live, and safe places to play. For some kids, this means living with foster parents. In simple words and full-color illustrations, this book explains why some kids move to foster homes, what foster parents do, and ways kids might feel during foster care.

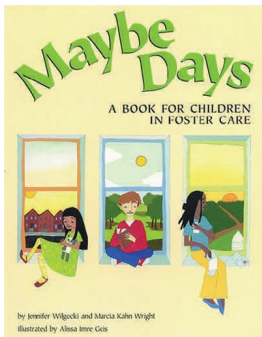
Children often believe they are in foster care because they are "bad." This book makes it clear that the troubles in their lives are not their fault; the message throughout is one of hope and support.



Murphy's Three Homes: A Story for Children in Foster Care

Author: Jan Levinson Gilman

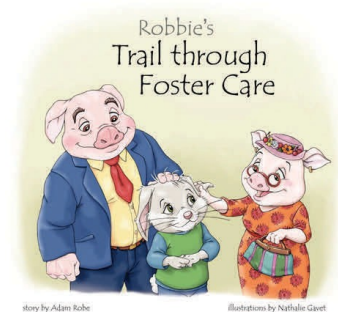
Murphy is told he is a good luck dog. However, after going through two different homes and an animal shelter, Murphy starts to feel like a bad luck dog who nobody wants. *Murphy's Three Homes* follows this adorable pup through his placement in three new homes, as well as through his anxiety, self-doubt, and hope for a new, loving family. Finally, Murphy is placed in a caring foster home where he feels comfortable and valued. He learns that he is not a bad dog after all and can go back to being a playful puppy and a good luck dog!



Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care

Author: Jennifer Wilgocki

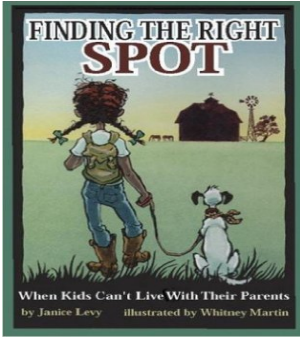
Will I live with my parents again? Will I stay with my foster parents forever? For children in foster care, the answer to many questions is often "maybe." *Maybe Days* addresses the questions, feelings, and concerns these children most often face. Honest and reassuring, it also provides basic information that children want and need to know, including the roles of various people in the foster care system and whom to ask for help.



Robbie's Trail through Foster Care

Author: Adam Robe

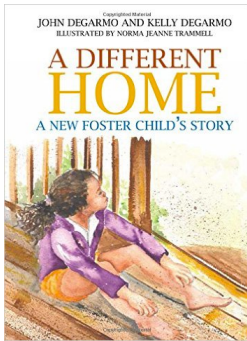
This book is an engaging story about Robbie Rabbit's journey into foster care. Robbie is removed from his birthmother's home and placed with foster parents. He meets his new foster family, learns what a foster kid is and experiences some commonplace behaviors as he adjusts to his new life. The ending is intentionally vague: Children don't know whether Robbie will end up with his mother or whether he'll ultimately be placed for adoption.



Finding the Right Spot: When Kids Can't Live with Their Parents

Authors: Janice Levy & Whitney Martin

This story is narrated by a spirited young girl who is living with her Aunt Dane (not her real aunt) for a while, until her mother is able to care for her again. She experiences the emotional ups and downs of living in an unfamiliar home and being separated from her mother.

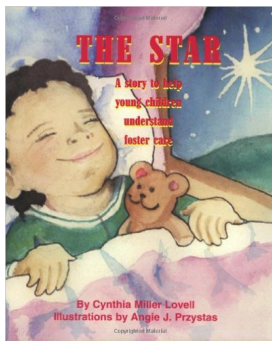


A Different Home: A New Foster Child's Story

Author: Kelly DeGarmo

A sensitive picture book to help ease the anxieties of foster children aged 4 to 10 entering placement. In A Different Home, Jessie tells us her story of being placed in foster care. At first she is worried and has lots of questions. The new home is not like her old home -- she has a different bedroom, different clothes, and there's different food for breakfast. She also misses her family. When Jim and Debbie, her foster parents, answer her questions she begins to feel better and see that this different home is kind of nice.

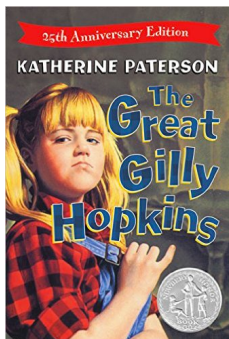
Written in simple language and fully illustrated in color, this storybook is designed to help children in care, or moving into care, to settle in and answer some of the questions they may have. Accompanied by notes for adults on how to use the story with children, it will be a useful book for foster parents and caseworkers, as well as social workers, teachers and anyone else working with children in foster care.



The Star: A Story to Help Young Children Understand Foster Care

Author: Cynthia Miller Lovell

THE STAR: A STORY TO HELP YOUNG CHILDREN UNDERSTAND FOSTER CARE is an easy-to-read, short story with beautiful, watercolor illustrations. The book follows a fictional young girl, Kit, who is taken from her mother to the safety, and different world, of a foster home. On Kit's first night in foster care, she becomes friends with a star outside her bedroom window. The star tells Kit about other foster children it has seen. Through the story, the star is a source of comfort for Kit as she experiences many emotions and adjusts to all the new things in her foster home.

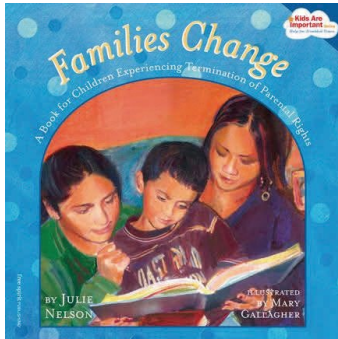


The Great Gilly Hopkins

Author: Katherine Paterson

Eleven-year-old Gilly has been stuck in more foster families than she can remember, and she's disliked them all. She has a reputation for being brash, brilliant, and completely unmanageable, and that's the way she likes it. So when she's sent to live with the Trotters—by far the strangest family yet—she knows it's only a temporary problem.

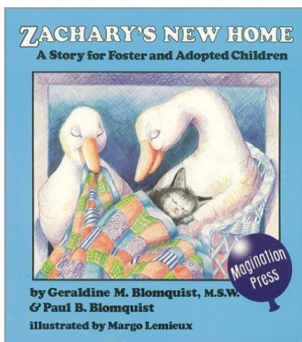
Gilly decides to put her sharp mind to work and get out of there fast. She's determined to no longer be a foster kid. Before long she's devised an elaborate scheme to get her real mother to come rescue her. Unfortunately, the plan doesn't work out quite as she hoped it would...



Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights

Author: Julie Nelson

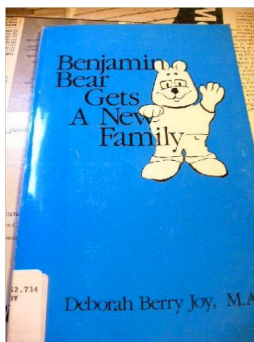
All families change over time. Sometimes a baby is born, or a grown-up gets married. And sometimes a child gets a new foster parent or a new adopted mom or dad. Children need to know that when this happens, it's not their fault. They need to understand that they can remember and value their birth family and love their new family, too. Straightforward words and full-color illustrations offer hope and support for children facing or experiencing change.



Zachary's New Home: A Story for Foster and Adopted Children

Authors: Geraldine Blomquist & Paul Blomquist

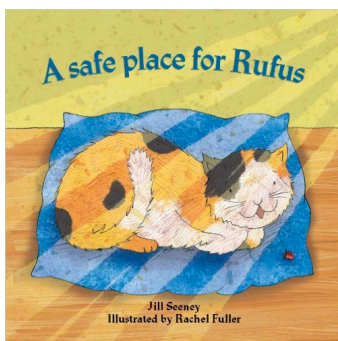
This story for adopted and foster children describes the adventures of Zachary the kitten, who is taken from his mother's house when she is unable to take care of him. It follows Zachary as he goes into foster care, his adoption by a family of geese and his feelings of shame, anger and hurt.



Benjamin Bear Gets a New Family

Author: Deborah Berry Joy

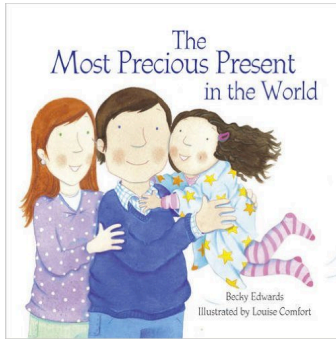
Intended to deal with the feelings of many adopted children, their adoptive parents and professionals working with them. Each chapter has a story section in which we learn what Benjamin Bear experiences from early childhood through the finalization of his adoption. Each chapter also has a participatory section consisting of several questions which provide the child the opportunity to work through and internalize the complex events that have been outside of his or her control.



A Safe Place for Rufus

Author: Jill Seeney

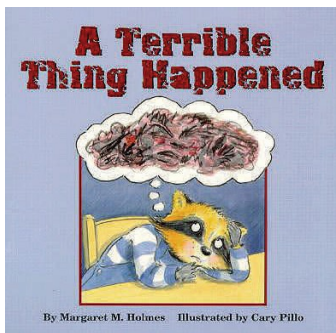
Rufus the cat lives with a family who looks after him, feeds him his favourite foods and gives him lots of cuddles. He feels happy and safe, especially when he is lying on his favourite blue cushion. But he didn't always feel this way. The family that Rufus used to live with were not kind to him at all. Thinking about his past makes him angry and sad and Rufus struggles to escape from his memories and find a safe place where he can just relax and be himself.



The Most Precious Present in the World

Author: Becky Edwards

Mia has different hair and eye colour to her mum and dad. Why? In a dialogue between a little girl and her adoptive mother, this simple, reassuring book explores some of the questions that adopted children ask.

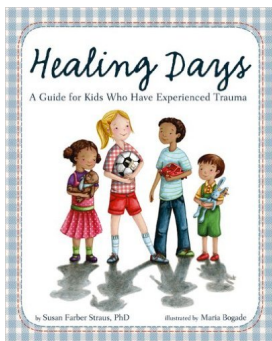


A Terrible Thing Happened

Author: Margaret M. Holmes

Sherman Smith saw the most terrible thing happen. At first he tried to forget about it, but soon something inside him started to bother him. He felt nervous for no reason.

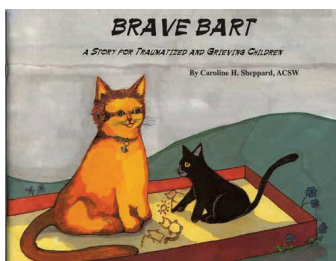
Sometimes his stomach hurt. He had bad dreams. And he started to feel angry and do mean things, which got him in trouble. Then he met Ms. Maple, who helped him talk about the terrible thing that he had tried to forget. Now Sherman is feeling much better. This gently told story is for children who have witnessed any kind of violent or traumatic episode.



Healing Days: A Guide for Kids Who Have Experienced Trauma

Author: Susan Farber Straus

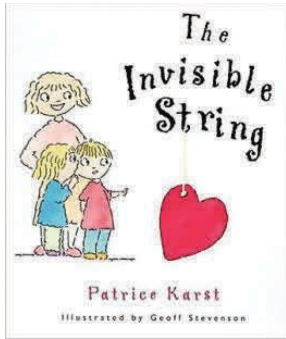
Healing Days is a book designed to be used in therapy for young children and functions as an excellent resource for those who have experienced physical or sexual abuse, or other trauma. Readers will follow four children as they learn ways to cope with their own trauma. Sensitive, empowering, and beautifully illustrated, the book models therapeutic coping responses and provides children with tools they may use to deal with their own trauma. A Dear Reader introduction is included for the child reader. Also available is an online Note to Parents and Caregivers.



Brave Bart: A Story for Traumatized and Grieving Children

Author: Caroline Sheppard

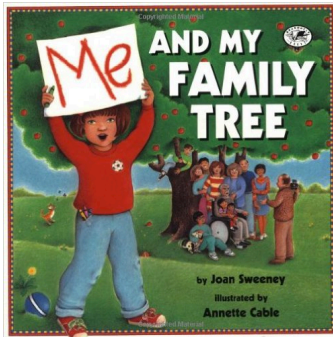
Brave Bart is a kitty who had something bad, sad and scary happen to him. Helping Hannah, a neighborhood cat, helps Bart overcome his fears and become a survivor. Brave Bart normalizes the many trauma-reactions children experience.



The Invisible String

Author: Patrice Karst

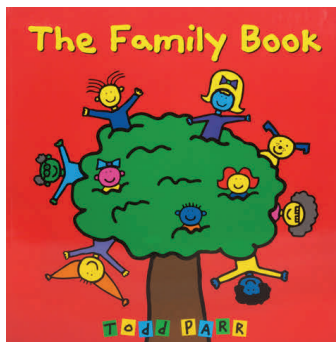
The Invisible String is a very simple approach to overcoming the fear of loneliness or separation with an imaginative flair that children can easily identify with and remember. "People who love each other are always connected by a very special string, made of love. Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it deep in your heart, and know that you are always connected to the ones you love."



Me and My Family Tree

Author: Joan Sweeney

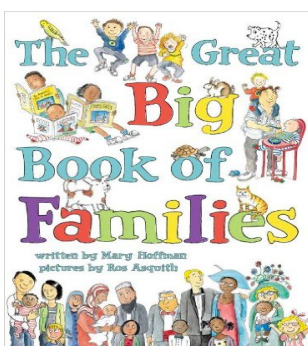
Following the successful model of *Me on the Map*, Sweeney demystifies an abstract concept by presenting it from a child's point of view. In *Me and My Family Tree*, a young girl uses simple language, her own childlike drawings, and diagrams to explain how the members of her family are related to each other and to her. Clear, colorful, detailed artwork and a fill-in family tree in the back help make the parts of the family--from siblings to grandparents to cousins--understandable to very young readers.



The Family Book

Author: Todd Parr

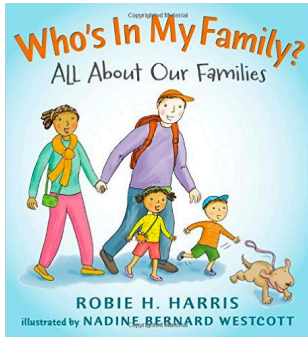
The Family Book helps children and parents alike to celebrate the diversity of every family, and uses colorful images and humor to show that the unifying factor in every family is not appearances or personality traits, but love.



The Great Big Book of Families

Author: Mary Hoffman

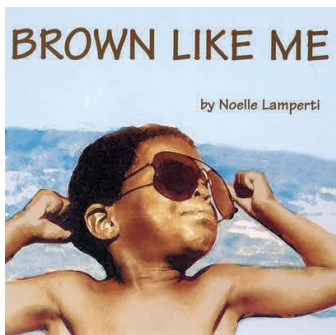
This fun and fascinating treasury features all kinds of families and their lives together. Each spread showcases one aspect of home life--from houses and holidays, to schools and pets, to feelings and family trees. Ros Asquith's humorous illustrations perfectly complement a charming text from the acclaimed Mary Hoffman; kids will love poring over these pages again and again. A celebration of the diverse fabric of kith and kin the world over, *The Great Big Book of Families* is a great big treat for every family to share.



Who's In My Family? All About Our Families

Author: Robie 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.

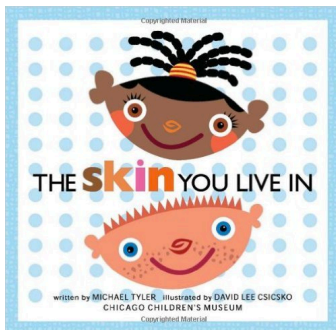


Brown Like Me

Author: Noelle Lamperti

This groundbreaking book speaks in simple straight-forward language to any child who is growing up in an environment where she/he feels different. This book will speak to any child trying to find herself reflected in the people and things around her. Brown Like Me is a fun and inventive way to encourage young children in multi-racial families to take pride in themselves and their appearance. The little girl, Noelle, is an African American adoptee raised in a Caucasian family. She identifies the color of brown in everything around her - brown leaves, brown sand, brown eyes, and brown skin

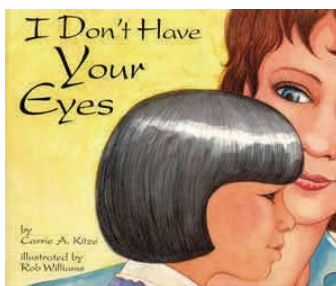
- ending with the words, "I am strong brown." It is easy to reinforce this concept by finding brown with your child in their everyday world.



The Skin You Live In

Author: Michael Tyler

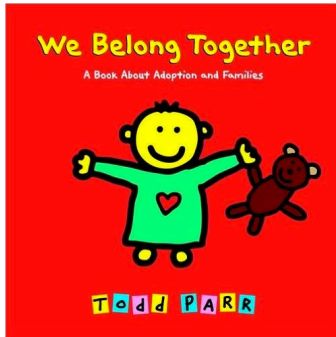
With the ease and simplicity of a nursery rhyme, this lively story delivers an important message of social acceptance to young readers. Themes associated with child development and social harmony, such as friendship, acceptance, self-esteem, and diversity are promoted in simple and straightforward prose. Vivid illustrations of children's activities for all cultures, such as swimming in the ocean, hugging, catching butterflies, and eating birthday cake are also provided. This delightful picturebook offers a wonderful venue through which parents and teachers can discuss important social concepts with their children.



I Don't Have Your Eyes

Author: Carrie Kitzel

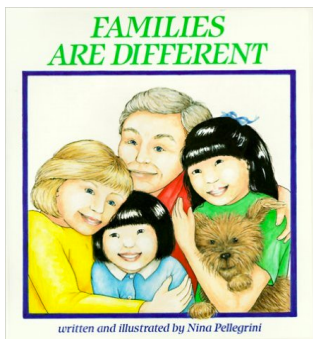
Family connections are vitally important to children as they begin to find their place in the world. For transracial and transcultural adoptees, domestic adoptees, and for children in foster care or kinship placements, celebrating the differences within their families as well as the similarities that connect them, is the foundation for belonging. For the child who looks different from their parents for whatever reason...foster care, step parents, adoption. This multicultural book will empower your child to look beyond the physical features they have on the outside because inside our hearts, we are the same.



We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families

Author: Todd Parr

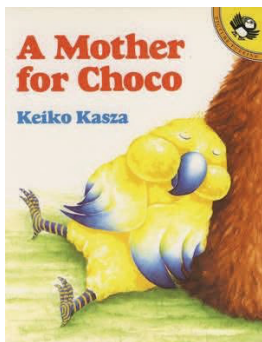
In a kid-friendly, accessible way, this book explores the ways that people can choose to come together to make a family. It's about sharing your home and sharing your heart to make a family that belongs together.



Families are Different

Author: Nina Pellegrini

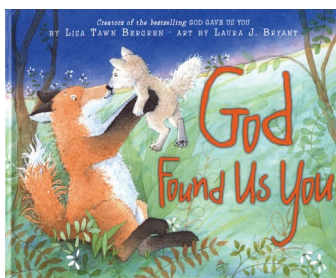
The title of this book, created by a woman with an adopted Korean daughter, telegraphs its message loud and clear. The simple, direct text paired with serviceable artwork sketches the story of a family composed of Caucasian parents, their two adopted Korean daughters and their dog. Told in the voice of the younger daughter Nico, the familiar concerns of adopted children and their parents are expressed. Nico's mother reassures her by reminding her that no family is exactly alike. Nico then observes a diverse mix of families including single parent, mixed race, etc. This is a straightforward celebration of "a special kind of glue called love" that holds families together. Ages 4-8.



A Mother for Choco

Author: Keiko Kasza

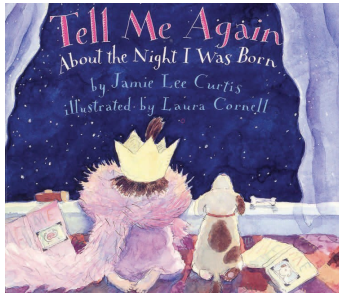
Choco, a young bird living all alone in the forest, wants desperately to find his mother. At first he feels sure that she must look precisely like him, and searches for an older bird with the same yellow feathers, round cheeks, graceful wings, and striped feet. However, all the animals he meets differ greatly in appearance from him, and he must look deeper to find the true meaning of love and family. Mrs. Bear, who looks nothing like Choco, turns out to be the perfect mother for him. Unlike the other animals, she demonstrates tremendous affection for Choco, sharing hugs, songs, and laughter with him. A Mother for Choco teaches young adoptees that children do not need to resemble their parents to be loved by them.



God Found Us You

Author: Lisa Tawn Bergren

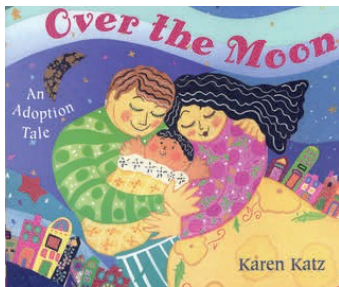
This book will resonate with many adopted children as well as their adoptive parents. The story is presented as a cherished and much-repeated bit of bedtime conversation between Mama Fox and Little Fox. Asked about "the day I came home," Mama talks about how long she dreamed about and waited for Little Fox. Little Fox asks, "You were lonely for me?" and Mama's affirmative response makes them cuddle all the closer: her pain is simultaneously shared and assuaged by Little Fox. Little Fox also asks about why he couldn't stay "with the mother who had me," and Mama responds in a warm and assuring tone.



Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born

Author: Jamie Lee Curtis

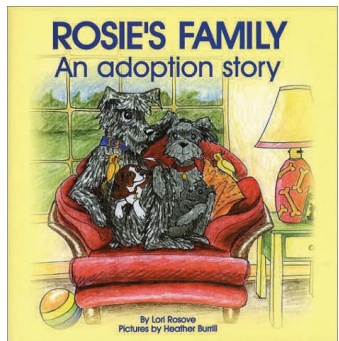
A young girl asks her parents to tell her again the cherished family story of her birth and adoption. The news arrives by telephone and the girl's adoptive parents rush to the hospital via plane, and any questions about the identity of the birth mother are brushed aside; she is simply "too young" to take care of her child. The new parents see their daughter in the nursery, howling wide-mouthed and oblivious to their pleased and loving gazes. Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born is a unique, exuberant story about adoption and about the importance of a loving family.



Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale

Author: Karen Katz

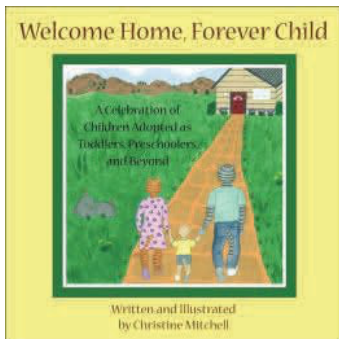
This heartfelt story of one adoptive family's beginnings starts on the night that a tiny baby is born. A man and woman each dream about a baby in a basket, surrounded by beautiful flowers and birds. The next day, they receive the exciting news that their baby has been born. They fly OVER THE MOON to a faraway place with palm trees and birds, violet flowers, and mountains, to meet their new daughter. A magical, reassuring story of international adoption told in words and pictures that are just right for the youngest child.



Rosie's Family: An Adoption Story

Author: Lori Rosove

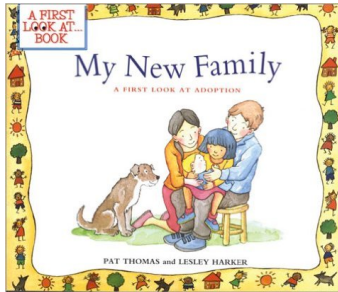
Rosie's Family is a story about belonging in a family regardless of differences. Rosie is a beagle who was adopted by schnauzers. She feels different from the rest of her family, including her brother, who is the biological child of her parents, and sets forth many questions that children who were adopted may have.



Welcome Home, Forever Child: A Celebration of Children Adopted as Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Beyond

Author: Christine Mitchell

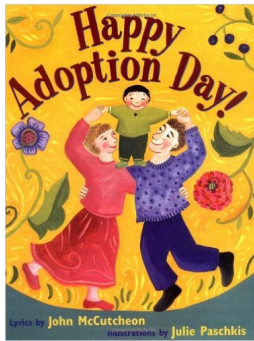
Finally....a book that genuinely celebrates a young child joining their forever family past infancy. While best suited to children ages two to eight, this gem will undoubtedly be enjoyed by older children as well. Most children's adoption books reflect infant adoptions, and may not be appropriate for the older child who spent their early years in foster care or an orphanage. Welcome Home, Forever Child is for families who adopted their child past the age of two. The book helps parents reassure children of their permanent place in the new family, and of how much they are wanted and loved.



My New Family: A First Look at Adoption

Author: Pat Thomas

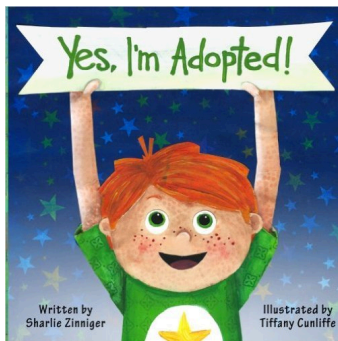
Children are sometimes upset to discover that they have been adopted. This book helps them understand how lucky they are to have to have loving, adoptive parents—and how lucky their parents are to have them! A First Look is an easy-to-understand series of books for younger children. They explore emotional issues and discuss the questions such difficulties invariably raise among kids of preschool through early school age. Written by a psychotherapist and child counselor, the book promotes positive interaction among children, parents, and teachers. The books are written in simple, direct language that makes sense to younger kids. Each title also features a guide for parents on how to use the book, a glossary, suggested additional reading, and a list of resources. There are attractive full-color illustrations on every page. (Ages 4-7)



Happy Adoption Day!

Author: John McCutcheon

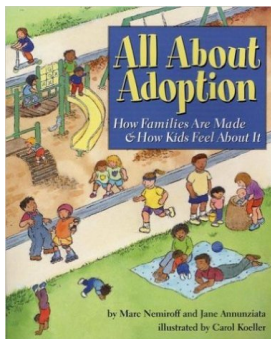
This adaptation of McCutcheon's song commemorates the day when a child joins an adoptive family. Complete with musical notation, these verses reassure adopted children they are special. Full-color illustrations.



Yes, I'm Adopted!

Author: Sharlie Zinniger

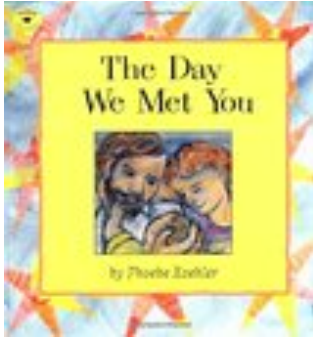
"Yes, adoption makes me special, it means that I am loved..." This brightly colored children's book illustrates how adoption is brought about by love. Written from a child's point of view, the rhyming verse takes you through an adoption journey from start to finish. It is perfect for anyone, young or old, whose life has been blessed by adoption.



All About Adoption: How Families are Made and How Kids Feel About It

Authors: Mark A. Nemiroff,
Jane Annunziata

For the child who already understands the concept of adoption, this work provides a deeper understanding of how the adoption process works and the feelings that many children have about being adopted. Topics include why children are given up for adoption and why adoptive parents want to adopt.

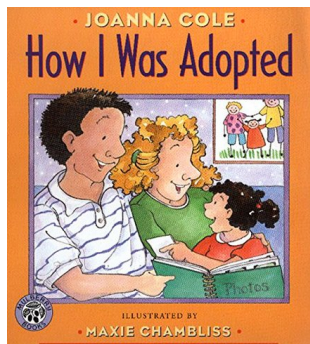


The Day We Met You

Author: Phoebe Koehler

Step by loving step, a couple prepares their home for the arrival of their adopted baby. "When the happy couple holds their smiling infant for the first time ... the joy is almost palpable". -- Publishers Weekly. "Adopted children love to hear their homecoming stories over and over, and this is a perfect book to encourage such retellings". -- School Library Journal.

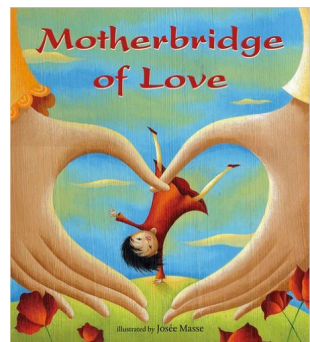
Includes an Afterword that provides parents with guidance about how and when to explain adoption to their children.



How I Was Adopted

Author: Joanna Cole

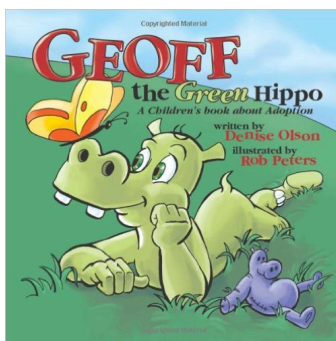
Sam has a joyful story to tell, one completely her own, yet common to millions of families -- the story of how she was adopted. Most of all, it's a story about love. And in the end, Sam's story comes full circle, inviting young readers to share stories of how *they* were adopted.



Motherbridge of Love

Author: Xinran

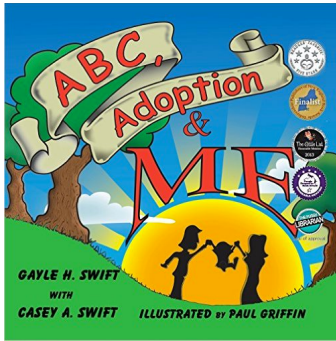
This rhyming story celebrates the bond between parent and child in a special way. Through the exchanges between a little Chinese girl and her adoptive parent, this title offers a poignant and inspiring message to adoptive parents and children all over the world.



Geoff the Green Hippo: A Book about Adoption

Author: Denise Olson

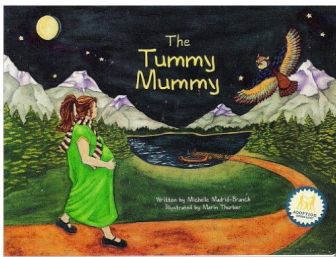
Adoption, what a truly amazing gift of life! Every child is part of a bigger plan no matter where their journey began, and it is important to instill that confidence in every little miracle for they were delivered to your arms for a reason. Geoff, the Green Hippo, learns although he may not appear to mirror the image of those around him he is surrounded with acceptance, undeniable love and a family that was meant to be his.



ABC, Adoption & Me

Authors: Gayle H. Swift, Casey Anne Swift

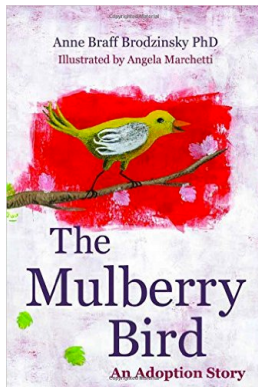
A child's review: "Most adoption books only talk about the good part of adoption. ABC shows adoption from the kid's side." ABC, Adoption & Me expresses their complicated feelings in a way that makes them feel normal and which makes it easy for them to discuss with their families. Includes a parent guide. ABC, Adoption & Me celebrates the blessing of family and addresses the difficult issues as well. Exuberant, multicultural illustrations depict a wide range of families. Includes a parent guide.



The Tummy Mummy

Author: Michelle Madrid-Branch

The true love that inspires adoption is revealed as a birthmother opens her heart while adoptive parents open their arms for a child. The Tummy Mummy's journey is guided by a wise and majestic owl who leads the reader along a path of deeper understanding, honoring all members of the adoption triad. The Tummy Mummy is the first children's book, in the Adoption Means Love series, inspiring children of adoption as it sensitively and beautifully portrays the thoughts and feelings of birthmothers and adoptive parents. The book promises to be an adoption classic for generations to come.



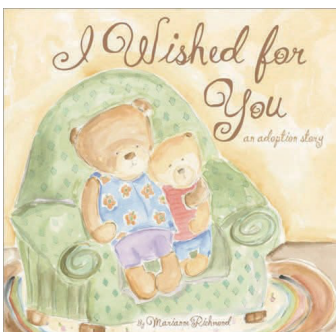
The Mulberry Bird: An Adoption Story

Author: Anne Braff Brodzinsky

Mother Bird is looking after her baby bird in the forest, when a huge storm scatters her nest. Try as she might, children, common issues in adoption are addressed—from the enduring force of a birth parent's love and contact she just can't give him the protection he needs. She faces a choice: continue to struggle on her own, or give her precious baby bird to another family who can care for him in their strong, secure nest.

In this classic adoption picture book for post-adoption to the importance of nurturing an adopted child in his or her new environment. It is a timeless and enduring tale of sacrifice, wisdom and love.

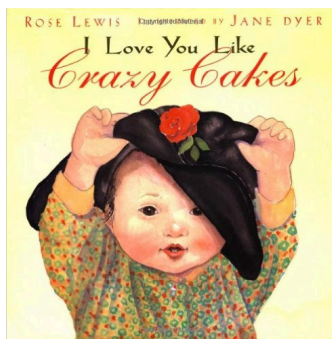
This book is ideal for reading aloud with adopted children aged 5–10 and their siblings.



I Wished for You: An Adoption Story

Author: Marianne Richmond

I Wished for You: An Adoption Story follows a conversation between Barley Bear and his Mama as they curl up in their favorite cuddle spot and discuss how they became a family. Barley asks Mama the questions many adopted children have, and Mama lovingly answers them all.



I Love You Like Crazy Cakes

Author: Rose Lewis

This story of a woman who travels to China to adopt a baby girl, based on the author's own experiences, is a celebration of the love and joy a baby brings into the home. Full color.

Compiled by Sarah Shannon Smith, LCSW. Descriptions from Amazon.com.