



Trans, Gender Creative, and Gender Diverse Children's and Parenting Books

It is important for trans, gender creative and gender diverse children to see themselves reflected in the books they read, or that are read to them. It is equally important for all children and youth to understand diversity, and that not all people or families look alike. Finally, it is important for parents, caregivers and other caring adults to learn about trans and gender diverse communities, so we can create safer environments for all kids and all families.

Picture Books

From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea, by Kai Cheng Thom (Author), Kai Yun Ching (Illustrator), Wai-Yant Li (Illustrator)

This Canadian picture book, written by Kai Cheng Thom and illustrated by Kai Yun Ching and Wai-Yant Li, tells the story of a magical gender diverse child who brings magic and change to the world around them with the support of their mother's love. The book challenges gender, racial, and body stereotypes and celebrates the unconditional love and support of gender diverse children.

Worm Loves Worm, by J.J. Austrian (Author), Mike Curato (Illustrator)

This book, written by J.J. Austrian and illustrated by Mike Curato, tells the story of two worms who fall in love and want to get married. Worm loves Worm explores the idea of love and marriage outside of the gender binary, rejecting the notion that marriage needs to be between a bride and a groom. The book is a good introduction to gender and love for children 4-8 years old.

[Everywhere Babies](#), by **Susan Meyers (Author), **Marla Frazee (Illustrator)****

This board book, by Susan Meyers (Author) and Marla Frazee (Illustrator) is aimed at children from 18 months - 4 years old. The book celebrates the diversity of babies and their families everywhere. It includes representation of 2SLGBTQ+ families and emphasizes that what makes a family is love.

[I Promise](#), by **Catherine Hernandez (Author), **Syrus Marcus Ware (Illustrator)****

I promise, a Canadian picture book by Catherine Hernandez (author) and Syrus Marcus Ware (illustrator) showcases, celebrates, and normalizes the different forms that families can take. It focuses specifically on 2SLGBTQ+ families, showing that like all families, they begin with the promise to love a child.

[Julián Is a Mermaid](#), by **Jessica Love (Author and Illustrator)**

Julián is a Mermaid, written and illustrated by Jessica Love, tells the story of a young boy who wants to be a mermaid. The story shows children that it is okay to not fit into gender stereotypes and celebrates and encourages the love and support that caregivers can offer children who do not follow the behaviours ascribed by gender stereotypes.

[The Boy & The Bindi](#), by **Vivek Shraya (Author), **Rajni Perera (Illustrator)****

This Canadian picture book, written by Vivek Shraya and illustrated by Rajni Perera, explores concepts of identity and culture, affirming important values of Hindu culture while challenging dominant expectations about gender expression. It is a joyful exploration of gender identity and cultural differences.

[When Aidan Became A Brother](#), by **Kyle Lukoff (Author), **Kaylani Juanita (Illustrator)****

When Aidan Became a Brother, by Kyle Lukoff (Author) and Kaylani Juanita (Illustrator), tells the story of Aidan, a trans boy whose parents are expecting another baby. Through Aidan's struggle to have everything fit the new baby's gender identity perfectly from the beginning this story challenges gender stereotypes and provides an excellent exploration of the importance of approaching conversations about gender identity with honesty, communication, acceptance, and support.

***The Great Big Book of Families*, by Mary Hoffman (Author), Ros Asquith (Illustrator)**

The Great Big Book of Families, by Mary Hoffman (Author) and Ros Asquith (Illustrator) highlights family diversity, providing children with an opportunity to explore what it means to be a family and the different forms that families can take. The book broadens children's understanding of families and affirms the love within their own family structures.

***All I Want To Be Is Me*, by Phyllis Rothblatt (Author and Illustrator)**

This illustrated children's book by Phyllis Rothblatt reflects the diverse ways that young people experience and express their gender. The book celebrates all children in being who they are, regardless of whether they fit into narrow gender stereotypes. The book will help children learn about gender diversity, embrace different ways to be, and be a true friend.

***Neither*, by Arlie Anderson (Author and Illustrator)**

Neither, by Arlie Anderson is a colorful, simple, and touching story celebrating what makes us unique through the story of a little creature searching for a place to fit in. The book can be interpreted in a variety of ways to discuss themes of gender, race, and diversity more broadly.

***One of a Kind, Like Me/Único Como Yo*, by Laurin Mayeno, Robert Liu-Trujillo**

This bilingual (English/Spanish) children's book tells the story of Danny and Mommy trying to find a princess costume that Danny can wear for the school parade. The book lifts up children who don't fit gender stereotypes and reflects the power of an unconditionally loving and supportive community.

Chapter Books / Middle Grade

***Melissa's Story*, by Alex Gino (published under the title *George*).**

This novel, written by genderqueer author Alex Gino, tells the story of Melissa, a 4th grader who knows she is a girl even though everyone sees as a boy. The novel follows her mission towards playing Charlotte in her class's production of Charlotte's

web. The book celebrates the power that trans and gender-diverse children hold in being themselves, while calling on their peers and caregivers to offer unconditional love and support as they begin to outwardly express this aspect of their identity.

Zenobia July, by Lisa Bunker

Zenobia July by Lisa Bunker is a heartfelt, coming of age story of a trans girl named Zenobia. Importantly it presents readers with full characters who are not defined by their trans identity. The novel strikes a good balance of explaining and normalizing trans and gender-diverse identities.

Obie Is Man Enough, by Schuyler Bailar

Obie is Man Enough, is a novel written by Schuyler Bailar, a trans athlete and the first to compete in any sport on an NCAA D1 men's team. The book follows a trans boy and swimmer named Obie as he faces transphobia from his old swim team and has to join a new swim team and make new friends. The story showcases that trans and gender-diverse children are not defined by their gender identity, but that having friends and family who support this aspect of their identity will help them to live more fully.

Kenzie Kickstarts a Team, by Kit Rosewater (Author), Sophie Escabasse (Illustrator)

This highly illustrated middle-grade book explores new friendships, first crushes, and getting outside of your comfort zone as the main characters Kenzie and Shelly try to become roller derby superstars. The book includes a diversity of identities, resists gender stereotypes, and offers casual representation of trans parents and non-heterosexual attraction.

The Prince and the Dressmaker, by Jen Wang

This graphic novel, written by Jen Wang, tells the story of Prince Sebastian. As his parents are pressuring him to find a wife, Prince Sebastian rebels against gender stereotypes and spends his nights dressing in beautiful dresses and taking on Paris as the fabulous Lady Crystallia. This graphic novel encourages readers to celebrate differences in gender expression and accept people for who they are.

Princess Princess Ever After, by Katie O'Neill

This graphic fantasy novel begins when a princess saves another princess from a tower. As they embark on adventures together and fall in love, the reader is able to

challenge traditional understandings of gender and romance. The graphic novel encourages readers to be fully themselves and accept and celebrate others for doing the same.

[The Witch Boy](#), by Molly Ostertag

This middle-grade graphic novel, written by Molly Ostertag, follows the story of Aster, a young boy who, despite traditional gender roles in his family, wants to become a witch rather than a shapeshifter. The novel helps children to question gender stereotypes and affirms the gender identity of children who do not fit within them.

[Lizard Radio](#), by Pat Schmatz

This dystopian middle-grade novel, written by Pat Schmatz, tells the story of Kivali growing and coming to terms with the ambiguities of her gender and sexual identity. The book explores binaries of all kinds through a genderqueer protagonist exploring what it means to be both/neither.

[The Pants Project](#), by Cat Clarke

The Pants Project, written by Cat Clarke, tells the story of a 6th grade student named Liv that has begun to identify as a boy but is expected to wear a girl's uniform at school. Liv and a new friend start "The Pants Project" to change the school's dress code. The book supports children in standing up for the freedom to be who they are.

[Wandering Son, Vol. 1](#), by Takako Shimura (Author), Rachel Balzora Thorn (Translator)

Wandering Son is a Japanese graphic novel written by Takako Shimura and translated by Rachel Balzora Thorn. It is a bittersweet coming-of-age story about two trans 5th graders who become friends and begin to explore their identities, all while dealing with everyday struggles of being a 5th grader.

[Sex is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU](#), by Cory Silverberg (Author), Fiona Smyth (Illustrations)

This comic book includes children and families of a diversity of structures, sexualities, and gender identities. This book is an essential resource about bodies, gender, and sexuality for children ages 8-10 as well as their families.

Youth and Young Adult

***If I Was Your Girl*, by Meredith Russo**

This young adult fiction novel, written by trans author Meredith Russo, is a story about a trans girl trying to navigate a new school and a new romantic interest, whilst not outing herself as trans to those she meets. Interested readers should keep in mind that the book contains content relating to homophobia, transphobia, suicide, and sexual assault.

***One in Every Crowd*, by Ivan E. Coyote**

One in Every Crowd, written by Ivan E. Coyote, is a collection of stories about gender and identity. It shares with youth the power of accepting and honouring differences and feeling comfortable in one's own skin.

***Symptoms of Being Human*, by Jeff Garvin**

This novel, written by Jeff Garvin, follows the story of a gender fluid teenager named Riley. Riley is not out and on the advice of a therapist starts an anonymous blog to talk about their experiences as a gender fluid teenager. When the blog goes viral and Riley's identity is threatened to be exposed, Riley needs to choose whether to walk away from what the blog has offered them or come out as gender fluid to their family and peers. Readers should be advised that the story involves sexual assault.

***Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource by and for Transgender Communities* by Laura Erickson-Schroth**

This comprehensive, reader-friendly guide for trans people is a collection of work by trans and gender expansive authors. It is a place for trans and gender diverse people and the people that care about them to look for information on important issues like race, religion, employment, sexuality, parenthood, and more that relate to trans life.

Books for Parents and Caregivers

***The Trans Partner Handbook: A Guide for When Your Partner Transitions*, by Jo Green**

This book includes introductory information about trans identity, and provides insights for how partners of trans people can support themselves and their partners through transition. While targeted at partners of trans people, many of the concepts and tools in this book are helpful and relevant to parents and caregivers too.

***Gender, Your Guide*, by Lee Airton**

This book provides an introduction to everything about gender, trans identity and supporting trans people in your life. The book explores what it means to be a trans man, a trans woman, a non-binary person, or anywhere else on the gender spectrum. Intended as an educational tool, this book is one of the most comprehensive and reader-friendly introductions to trans inclusion.

***The Gender Creative Child* by Diane Erhenshaft**

Authored by an internationally recognized authority on gender diversity and supporting gender creative kids, this book is an all-in-one guide for parents and caregivers looking to better understand and support trans, gender creative and gender diverse children.