## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books



|  | A Different Home: A New Foster Child's Story | A sensitive picture book to help ease the anxieties of foster children aged 4 to 10 entering placement. In A Different Home, lessie 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. <br> 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 <br> 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 youns 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 <br> 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. <br> 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 <br> Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights <br> 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. |


| Tacrantres New gome A Stery for Foster and Adopted Chilldrea <br> by Geraldine M. Bno illustriated to Ma | Zachary's New Home: A Story for Foster and Adopted Children <br> Authors: Geraldine Blomquist \& Paul Blomsquist | 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 <br> 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 Beniamin 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 | A Safe Place for Rufus <br> Author: Jill Seeney | Rufus the cat lives with a family who looks after him, feeds him his favorite foods and gives him lots of cuddles. He feels happy and safe, especially when he is lying on his favorite 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 <br> Precious <br> Present in the World <br> Author: Becky Edwards | Mia has different hair and eye color 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 Teprible Thing Happened | A Terrible Thing Happened <br> 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. |

## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books

| Healing Days | Healing <br> Days: A <br> Guide for <br> Kids Who <br> Have <br> Experienced <br> Truama <br> Author: Susan Farber <br> 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 <br> 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 Patrict Karst | The Invisible String <br> 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 <br> 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. |

## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books

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

## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books

| THE SICIC YOU LIVE IN <br>  | The Skin You Live In <br> 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 Vour Eyes | I Don't Have Your Eyes <br> Author: Carrie Kitze | 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 $\qquad$ <br> TI०Jd PARR | We Belong <br> Together: A <br> Book About <br> Adoption and Families <br> 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 | Families are Different <br> 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. |

## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books

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

## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books

| ROSIE'S FAMILY |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| An adoption story |$\quad$| 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. |

## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books

| Yes, Im Adopted! | Yes, I'm Adopted! <br> 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 iourney from start to finish. It is perfect for anyone, young or old, whose life has been blessed by adoption. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | All About <br> Adoption: How <br> Families are <br> Made and How <br> Kids Feel About It <br> 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 | The Day We Met You <br> 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 ioy 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 | How I Was <br> Adopted <br> Author: Joanna Cole | Sam has a ioyful 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. |

## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books



## Motherbridge

 of LoveAuthor: 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 <br> 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 <br> 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. $A B C$, 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 <br> Author: Michelle MadridBranch | 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 iourney 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. |

## Foster Care \& Adoption-Friendly Children's Books

| The Mulberry Bird AnAdoption Story | The Mulberry <br> Bird: An <br> Adoption <br> Story <br> Author: Anne Braff <br> Brodzinsky | Mother Bird is looking after her baby bird in the forest, when a huge storm scatters her nest. Try as she might, 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. <br> In this classic adoption picture book for children, common issues in adoption are addressed-from the enduring force of a birth parent's love and contact 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. <br> This book is ideal for reading aloud with adopted children aged 5-10 and their siblings, whether at home or in school. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Can I tell you about Adoption? | Can I Tell You About <br> Adoption?: A Guide for Friends, Family and Professionals <br> Author: Anne Braff Brodzinsky | Meet Chelsea - a young girl who was adopted. Chelsea invites you to learn about adoption from her perspective and introduces us to two friends of hers who were also transracially adopted. Chelsea and her friends help children understand what it means to be adopted, the experiences and challenges that follow the adoption process, and how they can help. <br> Accessible and informative, this illustrated book is an ideal introduction to adoption for children aged $7+$ and is a great tool for encouraging discussions for families, teachers and professionals working with adopted children. |
| c) Quished for Qou | I Wished for <br> You: An <br> Adoption Story <br> Author: Marianne Richmond | IWished 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 <br> 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. |

