


# PRIMARY SCHOOL BOOKLIST



**Stonewall**  
Education for all



**A selection of great books which are appropriate for use with primary school children (Key Stage 1, some books are also appropriate for Early Years). These books can be used to talk about different families and to address and challenge gender stereotypes.**

## CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE AND DIVERSITY

### Giraffes Can't Dance

by Giles Andreae



Gerald the giraffe longs to dance, but his legs are too skinny and his neck is too long. At the Jungle Dance, the warthogs waltz, the chimps cha-cha, and the lions tango. 'Giraffes can't dance,' they all jeer when it's Gerald's turn to prance. But with some sound advice from a wise cricket, Gerald starts swaying to his own sweet tune.

Published by Orchard Books, ISBN 0439287197

### I Am Living in 2 Homes (I Am Book)

by Garcelle Beauvais



Jay and Nia are the children of two worlds and two homes. Follow the twins from I Am Mixed as they both address the difficulties of having parents who are no longer together and discover the benefits of having two very different homes to explore and enjoy.

Published by Stranger Kids, ISBN B00JKGDP98

### The Different Dragon

by Jennifer Bryan



This story 'The Different Dragon' is about a little boy named Noah that is being read a bedtime story and he ends up meeting a dragon in it. The dragon is trying to be something that other people and his friends expect him to act and be like, but he is the total

opposite of what they expect him to be and Noah is trying to help him by talking to him and convincing him that being different or unique is ok and there will always be people or friends out there that like you for whom you are.

Published by Two Lives Publishing, ISBN 0967446864

### Mister Seahorse

by Eric Carle



A stunning picture book from Eric Carle about Mister Seahorse and other 'male mothers', with special acetate pages that hide fish behind rocks and reeds. As he floats through the sea, Mister Seahorse meets a Mr Stickleback, Mr Tilapia, Mr Kurtus and many other fish fathers caring for their eggs and babies in the most surprising ways.

*(Also appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by Puffin, ISBN 0140569898

### Friends

by Kathryn Cave



Once I was lost in the wood, in the wood, and you found me. Once I was afraid of the dark, of the dark and the creatures that hide there. You didn't laugh and it wasn't so bad with you at my side there. A tale of friendship and the importance of being there for one another through good times and bad. *(Also appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by Hodder Children's Books ISBN 034065600X

## Something Else

by Kathryn Cave



Something Else tries to be like everyone else. But everything he does shows how different he is. Then one night, something shows up. Has Something Else finally met someone just like himself?

Published by Mondo Publishing,  
ISBN 1572555637

## Cock-A-Moo-Moo

by Juliet Dallas-Conte



Poor Rooster has forgotten how to crow. Cock-a-moo-moo? Cock-a-oink-oink? Rooster can't seem to get it right. When all of the other animals make fun of

him, Rooster loses hope. Will he ever remember how roosters crow? One night, a surprise visitor arrives, it's Fox. Can Rooster save the day and remember what to say? Parents will delight in reading this enchanting tale, and children will crow and oink along to the tale of the rooster trying to find his identity in a confusing world.

*(Also appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, ISBN 0316605050

## The Other Ark

by Lynley Dodd

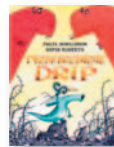


The rain is fast approaching and Noah wants to set sail. There are still lots of animals queuing to get on to the Ark

but it's absolutely jam packed. Noah has to ask his friend, Sam Jam Balu to take the other Ark and all the rest of the animals. So he valiantly starts gathering hip-hopping hippos, mad kangaroosters and flying flapdoodles - not to mention the dithering dingbats and sabre-tooth mice! But no sooner has San Jam Balu finished his task than the Other Ark is well and truly grounded. *(Also appropriate for Early Years)*  
Published by Puffin, ISBN 0141500182

## Tyrannosaurus Drip

by Julia Donaldson



Everyone knows that tyrannosauruses are big and scary, so when a placid duckbill dinosaur's egg ends up in the wrong nest confusion is sure to ensue! When the baby dinosaur hatches out, he's so out of place that his grisly big sisters call him Tyrannosaurus Drip. Poor little Drip: all he wants is a quiet life munching on water weed. *(Also appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by MacMillan UK, ISBN 1405090006

## Welcome to Lizard Lounge

by Laura Hambleton



Lizard thinks all lizards are the same until he arrives at Lizard Lounge and meets new reptile friends with different names and qualities – Gecko, Iguana, Gila Monster, Salamander and Komodo Dragon. Together they discover what makes them special.

Published by Milet Publishing,  
ISBN 1840593903

## The Toothless Tooth Fairy

by Shanelle Hicks



Bella had it all. The hair, the dress, and the smile. One day, her most important asset was missing, her tooth! Will Bella find the perfect tooth in time for the contest? Will Zelda, the meanest of the fairies, destroy Bella's chances of winning the crown? Take a journey onto Cloud Nine as Bella searches for a new tooth only to discover the tooth, I mean truth, behind her true beauty.

Published by Mirror Publishing,  
ISBN 1612251404

## Priscilla and the Pink Planet

by Nathaniel Hobbie



Priscilla lives on a planet where everything is pink. "Pink, pink, pink!" she cries with fright. "Pink to the left and pink to the right!" Priscilla dreams of seeing the world in other colours and ends up teaching the Great Queen of Pink that diversity leads to true beauty. Told in lyrical verse, here is a clever read-aloud that's sure to become a modern classic.

Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, ISBN 0316735795

## It's Okay to Be Different

by Todd Parr



This book is great because it talks about how we are all different. It's Okay to be Different, is a book that helps

young children understand that there are no two people exactly alike and that it is okay to be who you are. It helps children learn to embrace the differences in the world around them and be proud of themselves and their families. It is a great book to read at the beginning of the school year or for social emotional development.

Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, ISBN 0316155624

## Colour Me Happy

by Roddie Shen and Ben Cort



This host of vibrant colours and humorous illustrations help toddlers explore and learn to express a range of emotions.

Small children will fall in love with the adorable kitten as they turn the pages of this colourful book. Encourages children to explore and understand their feelings with simple, rhythmic text – perfect for even very young children and a joy to read aloud.

*(Also appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by Pan Macmillan, ISBN 0230741681

## Together

by Jane Simmons



Have you noticed how being with your best friend makes your day that little bit brighter?

Mousse and Nut love playing together – but can they really be friends when they're so different? Of course then can!

Published by Orchard (NY), ISBN 1846162882

### Truelove

by **Babette Cole**

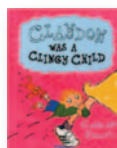


Truelove is a dog who has had his wet, loveable nose put out of joint by the arrival of a new baby in the house. He tries his best to attract his owners' attention, but finally gives up and leaves home. Soon he falls into bad company and is forced to return shamefaced. His owners are delighted to see him – and his slightly dodgy new friends, of course. The text is made up of a series of aphorisms about love, while the illustrations depict the little dog's own experiences. The combination is sometimes ironic, sometimes sincere but it is always hilarious and the book is full of warmth and understanding.

Published by Red Fox, ISBN 0099433052

### Claydon Was a Clingy Child

by **Cressida Cowell**



Claydon goes everywhere with his mother: sky-diving, skateboarding, skiing and more. He thinks it is safer but one day he decides that maybe, just maybe, life might be better not clinging to his mother's leg. This delightful new title from a star author is a hilarious yet sympathetic look at one child's growing sense of independence.

Published by Hodder & Stoughton, ISBN 0340757248

### No Matter What

by **Debi Gliori**



A parent fox and a child fox live in a house together. They are named 'Large' and 'Small'. Small has a temper tantrum which overturns furniture and knocks paintings out of alignment, and when Large asks what's wrong, Small expresses worry that Large doesn't love Small at all. Large assures Small this is not the case. May provide reassurance for an insecure or anxious child that their parents' love for them is unconditional and constant, despite the circumstances. It sensitively reinforces the message that love carries on, even after someone dies.

Published by Bloomsbury, ISBN 0747563314

### Aaaarrgghh! Spider!

by **Lydia Monks**



All Spider wants is to be a family pet. But the family whose house he lives in are terrified of him. Whenever he tries to show them what a great pet he would make, they simply cry, 'Aaaarrgghh! Spider!'. Themes of tolerance and misunderstanding make key discussion points for children in this book.

Published by Egmont Books (UK), ISBN 1405210443

## This Is Our House

by Michael Rosen



George says the cardboard house is his and no one else can play with it. But when some of George's friends give him a taste of his own

medicine and claim the house as theirs, he has to agree that it should be for everyone to play with. *(Also appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by Walker, ISBN 1406305642

## Frog in Love

by Max Velthuijs



Frog is worried because his heart is beating too fast, could he be in love? But who is he in love with? This enchanting mini-book will delight children

of all ages and strike a chord with anyone who

knows what it is to be in love.

Published by Henry Holt and Co. (BYR),

ISBN 0805076549

## Jennifer Jones Won't Leave Me Alone

by Frieda Wishinsky



Jennifer Jones is in love and she doesn't care who knows it.

But the object of her affection sure does. He's embarrassed by the love poems, the terms of

endearment, the cute little red heart stickers, and especially the laughter and snickers from his classmates. He wishes that Jennifer Jones would just move away, and one day, she does. There's no more sickening stickers, no more silly poems, and no more fun. Does he actually miss Jennifer Jones?

Published by Lerner Publishing Group

ISBN 0876149212

## CHALLENGING GENDER NORMS AND STEREOTYPES

## The Princesses Have a Ball

by Teresa Bateman



The story is a fractured fairy tale, based off of the twelve dancing princesses. In the original story, the princesses wear out their shoes night after night by going dancing at the ball. This story is not quite the same. The princesses in this story still wear out their shoes every night but it's not by dancing; it's by playing basketball! These princesses love to get out on the court every night and

play so long that their shoes wear through.

Published by Albert Whitman & Company,

ISBN 0807566284

## Be Who You Are

by Jennifer Carr

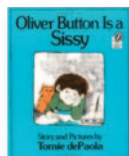


Hope was born in a boy's body, but has always felt like a girl inside. Hope's family supports him when he says he no longer wants to be called a boy or dress like a

boy; 'Always remember to be who you are. Remember that we love you, and we are so proud of you.' (p. 17). Hope's parents find a group for families like theirs. With their support, Hope expresses a desire to be addressed as 'she', and then to be named 'Hope'. Based on the author's experiences with her children. Published by Authorhouse, ISBN 1452087253

## Oliver Button Is a Sissy

by Tomie dePaola

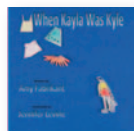


This is a great one for the beginning of the year or if there's bullying or teasing going on in the classroom. The little boy is confident about being himself, even though he's teased for being a sissy because he likes dancing rather than sports. At the end, it's not Oliver that changes but his family and the people around him. This book lends itself well to making schema connections because most students have had the experience of feeling different from others and/or being teased.

Published by HMH Books for Young Readers, ISBN 0156681404

## When Kayla Was Kyle

by Amy Fabrikant



Kyle doesn't understand why the other kids at school call him names. He looks like other boys, but doesn't feel like them. Can Kyle find the words to share his feelings about his gender and can his parents help him to transition into the person he was born to be? When Kayla Was

Kyle is a picture book children of all ages will want to read because it addresses the increasingly emerging ideas around gender diversity.

Published by Avid Readers Publishing Group, ISBN 1612861547

## The Sissy Duckling

by Harvey Fierstein



Let's just say that Elmer's not your run-of-the-mill duck. He likes to decorate cookies, enjoys building sand castles instead of forts, and would rather put on puppet shows than play sports. Being different is fine for sweet Elmer, he's as happy as a duck in water doing everything he loves.

Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, ISBN 1416903135

## Bill's New Frock

by Anne Fine



One morning, almost as if in a dream, Billy wakes up to find that he has turned into a girl! His mother casually dresses him in a pink dress and sends him off to school, where he realizes how differently girls are treated. A unique story that will serve as a springboard for discussions among young readers. *(Also appropriate for Key Stage 2)*

Published by Egmont Books Ltd, ISBN 140520060X



## I Am Jazz

by **Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings**



Jazz loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her

family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers. Published by Dial Books, ISBN 0803741073

## Jacob's New Dress

by **Sarah Hoffman, Ian Hoffman**



Jacob loves playing dress-up, when he can be anything he wants to be. Some kids at school say he can't wear 'girl' clothes,

but Jacob wants to wear a dress to school. Can he convince his parents to let him wear what he wants? This heartwarming story speaks to the unique challenges faced by boys who don't identify with traditional gender roles.

Published by Albert Whitman & Company, ISBN 0807563730

## Jump

by **Michelle Magorian**



Every Saturday, Steven watches his sister at her ballet class – jumping and dancing – and he longs to join in. But his mother

says that real boys don't dance; they play games like basketball. However, there's one

skill that you need for both ballet and basketball and fortunately for Steven, it's the thing that he loves doing best.

Published by Walker Books Ltd, ISBN 0744589614

## Tough Chicks

by **Cece Meng**



From the moment Penny, Polly, and Molly hatch from their eggs, the whole farm knows they are truly tough chicks. They wrestle worms,

rope roosters, and are often found under the hood of the tractor. All the other animals and even the farmer himself tell Mama Hen to make her chicks good. 'They are good!' Mama Hen replies. But could her chicks be too loud, too independent, and too tough? Lively language and bold illustrations capture all the fun and humor of this delightfully different farmyard romp that's also a resounding endorsement for letting girls be girls (even if they're loud and tough and like to play with tractors.)

Published by Clarion Books, ISBN 0618824154

## The Paper Bag Princess

by **Robert Munsch**



The Princess Elizabeth is slated to marry Prince Ronald when a dragon attacks the castle and kidnaps Ronald. In resourceful and

humorous fashion, Elizabeth finds the dragon, outsmarts him, and rescues Ronald, who is less than pleased at her un-princess-like appearance.

Published by Annick Press, ISBN 0920236162

## Free to Be...You and Me

by Marlo Thomas



Running Press is proud to offer this beloved 1974 children's classic. It's the original, innovative book that celebrates

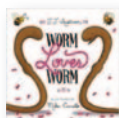
diversity, challenges stereotypes, and encourages kids to be themselves in a joyful, positive manner, through a collection of songs, poems, and stories to be read aloud and shared with new generations.

Published by Running Press, ISBN 0762413069

## RELATIONSHIPS AND DIFFERENT FAMILIES

### Worm Loves Worm

by J.J. Austrian



You are cordially invited to celebrate the wedding of a worm and a worm. When a worm meets a special worm and they fall in love, you know what happens next: They get married! But their friends want to know, who will wear the dress? And who will wear the tux? The answer is, it doesn't matter. Because Worm loves Worm.

Published by Balzer + Bray, ISBN 0062386336

### If I Had a Hundred Mummies

by Vanda Carter

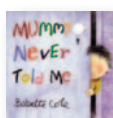


A little girl imagines what it would be like to have 100 mummies, eventually deciding that she is happy with just the two she's got.

Published by Onlywomen Press,  
ISBN 0906500915

### Mummy Never Told Me

by Babette Cole



What are tummy buttons for, and how do they get there? What does the tooth fairy really look like? Why do grown-ups have hair in their ears and up their noses, but sometimes none on their heads? Why do Mummy and Daddy lock you out of their bedroom, and where do they go at night? Babette Cole explores these questions and many more with her wonderfully sharp text and riotously funny illustrations.

Published by Red Fox, ISBN 0099407132

### ABC, a Family Alphabet Book

by Bobbie Combs



Have fun with the kids, moms, dads and pets in this delightful book that celebrates LGBTQ families as it teaches young children the alphabet.

Published by Two Lives Publishing,  
ISBN 0967446813

## Jack & Jim

by Kitty Crowther



When Jack, a blackbird, ventures out of the woods to see the ocean for the first time, he meets Jim, a gregarious seagull. They fly together all day, and become fast friends. But when they visit Jim's village, their fun ends. They are met with stares and rude remarks. The other seagulls don't like Jack because he looks different. Then Jim discovers that Jack can do something no other seagull can – he can read! It is the strength of Jim and Jack's friendship – and the remarkable power of story – that eventually opens the minds and changes the hearts of the village seagulls.

Published by Disney-Hyperion,  
ISBN 0786806141

## Hello, Sailor

by Ingrid Godon



Matt lives in a lighthouse. He watches the sea every day for ships and for his friend, Sailor. Rose and Felix say Sailor is never coming back, but Matt won't give up hope. Surely Sailor will come back for Matt's birthday? This gentle story of hope and friendship, complemented by Ingrid Godon's subtle illustrations, is a beautiful picture book for all children and one that might also be used to discuss the subject of same-sex relationships.

Published by Macmillan UK, ISBN 0333992903

## Our Twitchy

by Kes Gray



Twitchy and his parents live in a burrow and munch on carrots, just like any bunny family. But when Twitchy wonders why he doesn't look like his parents, the answer surprises him. How can the three of them truly be a family if they're not really the same? With lots of love (and plenty of carrots) Twitchy's parents show him that they are indeed a family after all. This sweet, funny adoption story will appeal to children and parents alike.

Published by Henry Holt and Co.,  
ISBN 0805074546

## Picnic in the Park

by Joe Griffiths



Tells the story of Jason's birthday picnic and his guests. In so doing, it introduces children to a range of family structures, including two and one parent families; adoptive and foster families; gay and lesbian families; and step-families; and more, showing a diverse range of adults and children. Using the device of a birthday picnic in the park, each page shows a new set of guests coming to the party. Each one brings food and presents!

*(Appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by British Association for Adoption & Fostering, ISBN 1905664087

## Dad David, Baba Chris and Me

by Ed Merchant



Seven year old Ben leads a pretty ordinary life, save for the fact he has two dads (Baba Chris and Dad David) who adopted

him. The book goes on to express the emotional turmoil, due to his fear of rejection and concern for his birth parents, which Ben experiences after his adoption. Ben gets teased and bullied at school because he has two dads. David and Chris go on to explain how two fathers are able to love the same way a mom and dad would. *(Also suitable for Key Stage 2)*  
Published by British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), ISBN 1905664893

## Mommy, Mama, and Me

by Lesléa Newman



Rhythmic text and illustrations with universal appeal show a toddler spending the day with its 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. Shares the loving bond between same-sex parents and their children. *(Appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by Tricycle Press, ISBN 1582462631

## Daddy, Papa, and Me

by Lesléa Newman



Rhythmic text and illustrations with universal appeal show a toddler spending the day with its daddies. From hide-and-see-

to dress-up, then bath time and a kiss goodnight, there's no limit to what a loving family can do together. Share the loving bond between same-sex parents and their children. *(Appropriate for Early Years)*

Published by Tricycle Press, ISBN 1582462623

## King and King

by Stern Nijland, Linda de Haan



Once there lived a lovelorn prince whose mother decreed that he must marry by the end of the summer. So began the

search to find the prince's perfect match and lo and behold, his name was Lee. You are cordially invited to join the merriest, most unexpected wedding of the year. King & King is a contemporary tale about finding true love and living happily ever after, sure to woo readers of any age.

Published by Tricycle Press, ISBN 1582460612

## King & King & Family

by Stern Nijland, Linda de Haan



Join newlyweds King Lee and King Bertie on their journey into the noisy jungle. The kings are greeted by wild animal families, but the royal travelers suspect that something more significant awaits them in the trees.

King & King soon discover that there's no adventure more wonderful than starting a family of their own.

Published by Tricycle Press, ISBN 1582461139

## And Tango Makes Three

by **Justin Richardson, Peter Parnell**



In the zoo there are all kinds of animal families. But Tango's family is not like any of the others. This illustrated children's

book fictionalises the true story of two male penguins who became partners and raised a penguin chick in the Central Park Zoo.

Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, ISBN 0689878451

## The Family Book

by **Todd Parr**



All families are unique and that is what makes your family special. That is the message this book is trying to explain to

children with its big, bold colours and large, easy text. With contrasting ideas on opposing pages the book is easy to read and it gets its message out loud and clear.

Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, ISBN 0316155632

## Emma and Meesha My Boy: A Two Mom Story

by **Kaitlyn Taylor Considine**



This is a delightful story of little girl with two moms as she learns how to be nice to her cat.

Follow along as Emma gets in trouble trying to play with Meesha Kitty and cheer as she learns to treat him with care.

*(Suitable for Early Years)*

Published by TWOMOMBOOKS.com  
ISBN 1413416004

## One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads

by **Johnny Valentine**



Two children – one with blue dads, one from a more traditional family – compare notes in this light hearted book about parents

who are different. In the end, of course, they discover that blue dads aren't really that different from other dads. Except for one thing.

Published by Alyson Books, ISBN 1555838480

## The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans

by **Johnny Valentine**



This is a series of fairytales that depict diverse families through fun and engaging stories. For example, in one story the Frog

Prince leaves his mean parents to live with his rescuer, Nicholas. In another, a Duke states that all families must have one mother and one father, to which the children in the land

mock the silly law and get it taken away.  
Published by Alyson Books, ISBN 1555831990

## Spacegirl Pukes

by **Katy Watson**



Young spacegirl is especially lucky to have two mothers and a very curious cat nearby when rocket troubles and nausea begin.

Published by Onlywomen Press,  
ISBN 0906500877

## Tadpole's Promise

by **Jeanne Willis**



Where the willow tree meets the water, a tadpole met a caterpillar. They gazed into each other's tiny eyes, and fell in love. 'I love everything about you,' said the caterpillar. 'Promise you'll never change.' And foolishly the tadpole promised... But we all know that tadpoles don't stay the same, and neither do caterpillars. Will they still be able to love each other?

Published by Atheneum Books,  
ISBN 0689865244



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