



Creating a Welcoming Early Childhood Program for LGBT-Headed Families: Resources about Diverse Family Structures

This resource is part of a series developed to support programs in partnering with parents/guardians who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT). You will also find information to create an early childhood setting that is welcoming for all children and families. Recommended for directors, teachers, providers, and parents.

Pamphlets and Articles

- **Do No Harm: Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Families in Early Childhood Settings**
Burt, T., Gelnow, A., & Lesser, L. K. (2010). "Do No Harm: Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Families in Early Childhood Settings." *Young Children*, 65(1), 97–102. <https://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/201001/LesserOnlineExtra2.pdf>
Learn about the importance of creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all children and families in early childhood settings. It highlights the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct and the goals of anti-bias education presented in *Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves* (Derman-Sparks & Edwards, 2010), and includes tips for including all families.
- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Families: Tools for Directors in Supporting Staff Discussion Dealing with Fears**
Burt, T., & Klinger, L. L. (2008). "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Families: Tools for Directors in Supporting Staff Discussion with Fears." *Exchange*, 30(5), 62–65. <http://www.returntooursenses.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/LGBT-families-Lee-Klinger-Lesser.pdf>
Read this article about the need for all early childhood settings to create an environment where children and their families feel visible and honored. Find strategies to open a dialogue with staff, and identify and address common fears.

- **A Note on Mother's Day & Father's Day**

Human Rights Campaign Foundation. (2015). "A Note on Mother's Day & Father's Day." Welcoming Schools. Retrieved from <http://www.welcomingschools.org/pages/a-note-on-mothers-fathers-day1/>

Explore this guide to making activities for Mother's and Father's Days more welcoming for all students and their families—including families with parents who identify as LGBT, families with single moms or dads, and families with grandparents raising children.

- **Opening Doors: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Parents and Schools**

Family Equality Council. (2011). *Opening Doors: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBT) Parents and School*. Retrieved from http://www.familyequality.org/_asset/wmr0h2/OpeningDoors2011.pdf

This guide offers parents guidance about how to create supportive, safe, and welcoming learning environments for all young children, with an emphasis on LGBT-headed families. Find stories of young children from LGBT-headed families, a description of facts/fears and rights and responsibilities, and conversation prompts to engage with LGBT-headed families.

- **Plenary: Parenting and Partnering: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender**

18th Annual Birth to Three Institute. (2014, July 31). *Parenting and Partnering: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT)* [PDF document]. Retrieved from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/btt/docs/parenting-LGBT-transcript.pdf>

Watch this panel discussion for stories and conversations with LGBT-headed families.

- **A Practitioner's Resource Guide: Helping Families to Support Their LGBT Children**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. (2014). *A Practitioner's Resource Guide: Helping Families to Support Their LGBT Children*. HHS Publication No (PEP14-LGBTKIDS). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, 2014. Retrieved from <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/PEP14-LGBTKIDS/PEP14-LGBTKIDS.pdf>

Find resources for practitioners in health care and social services fields about ways to support families with children who identify as LGBT. The guide also includes a summary of research on the critical role of families in reducing risks to and promoting the well-being of their LGBT children.

- **Report of the Early Head Start National Center Expert Work Group**

Early Head Start National Resource Center. (2013, May). *Report of the Early Head Start National Center Expert Work Group* [PDF document]. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/btt/docs/parent-plenary-final-report-ewg-lgbt-families-served-ehs-programs.pdf>

Learn about the issues LGBT-headed families face across communities. Discover strategies and recommendations to address the challenges programs face as they work to provide services for all families in need. Recommended for federal staff, and training and technical assistance providers.



- **Talking to Our Children about Our Families**

Brickley, M., & Gelnow, A. (n.d.). *Talking to Children about Our Families*. Retrieved from <http://www.familypride.org/publications/talkingtoourchildren.pdf>

Find sample responses to questions children may have about LGBT-headed families, broken down by age groups—under 3, ages 4 to 7, and 8 and older.

- **Who Can Marry Whom? Inclusive Conversations about Marriage**

Human Rights Campaign Foundation. (n.d.). "Who Can Marry Whom? Inclusive Conversations about Marriage." Welcoming Schools. Retrieved from <http://www.welcomingschools.org/pages/who-can-marry-whom-inclusive-conversations-about-marriage/>

Discover simple ideas for responding to children when they ask questions about marriage. This also includes a one-page "Checklist for a Welcoming and Inclusive School Environment."



Research

- **Children with Parents Who Identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT)**

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. (2013, August). "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents." Facts for Families No. 92. Retrieved from http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Children-with-Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-and-Transgender-Parents-092.aspx

Learn about the myths related to the outcomes for a child raised by gay parents compared to those for children from heterosexual families. This report from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry concludes that it is the quality of the parent/provider relationships with a young child that affects their development.

- **LGBT Families of Color: Facts at a Glance**

Movement Advancement Project. (2012, January). *LGBT Families of Color: Facts at a Glance*. Retrieved from <https://www.lgbtmap.org/file/lgbt-families-of-color-facts-at-a-glance.pdf>

This brief is based on content from *All Children Matter: How Legal and Social Inequalities Hurt LGBT Families*, a report that provides a comprehensive portrait of the wide range of obstacles facing LGBT-headed families in the United States. It offers detailed recommendations for eliminating or reducing inequities and improving the lives of children with parents who identify as LGBT.

- **Promoting the Well-Being of Children Whose Parents Are Gay or Lesbian**

Perrin, E. C., Siegel, B. S., & Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. (2013). *Promoting the Well-Being of Children Whose Parents are Gay or Lesbian* (1098-4275). Retrieved from American Academy of Pediatrics website: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/131/4/e1374.full.pdf>

Learn about the research-based rationale for marriage equality, and for the ability of gay and lesbian adults to adopt and provide foster care. It is based on 30 years of research revealing that children raised by gay and lesbian parents have demonstrated resilience despite economic and legal disparities and social stigma.

Websites

Welcoming Schools: Family Diversity Resources

- <http://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/school-tips/diverse-families-what/>

Family Equality Council

- <http://www.familyequality.org/>

COLAGE

- <http://www.colage.org/>

The Next Family

- <http://thenextfamily.com/>

In this Series

Explore the other resources from the Creating a Welcoming Early Childhood Program for LGBT-Headed Families series:

- Partnering with Parents Who Identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and/or Transgender
- A Checklist for Programs
- Children's Books that Include Diverse Family Structures

Visit our PFCE web portal on the Office of Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, at <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family>.

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