

Supporting Children in LGBTQIA+ Families

Resources and Activities

Today's families come in all sizes, shapes, colors, and forms, yet there are those who do not welcome families that look different from the traditional mother-father-children family model. Both the parents and the children in families who experience hurtful comments or who are not welcomed by neighbors, for instance, need support in weathering negativity that may come their way. God made each and every one of us a beloved child of God, no matter who or how we love. The activities and resources that follow are for families and churches to use in helping to acknowledge the beloved-ness of everyone in God's eyes, particularly LGBTQIA+ children and families.

ACTIVITIES

- Use the links in the Resource section below to select the children's books that address the needs and the questions your child/children have around LGBTQIA+.
- **Read** the poem, *They*, with a child.

They

*This person I know
Wants to be called they.*

*It could bring us much closer
To see them that way.*

*It's a strange thing to think
And harder to say,*

*But they are so happy
When the effort is made.*

*For all the theys and thems
It is this that I pray,*

*We be kind and accepting
And just let them be they.*

(Written by Theo Nicole Lorenz's Aunt)

- Learn more about the poem at <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/05/24/elderly-aunt-goes-viral-with-wonderful-poem-about-gender-neutral-pronouns/>

- Ask:
 - I wonder who “they” might be...
 - I wonder if it is hard to call someone “they”...
 - I wonder why someone would want to be called “they”...
 - Add your own wonderings.
 - Write a new poem of your own together. <<https://literacyideas.com/7-types-of-poetry-for-kids/>>
- **Attend** a Pride event or parade as a family and/or with your church.
- Wear rainbow clothing, carry rainbow flags and banners (make your own!),
 - Hand out rainbow stickers/tattoos like [these](https://vibrantchurchcommunications.com/beloved) from Vibrant Church Communications [https://vibrantchurchcommunications.com/beloved](https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/illustrated-cards-stickers/products/you-are-loved-stickers) or [these](https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/illustrated-cards-stickers/products/you-are-loved-stickers) from Illustrated Ministry <https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/illustrated-cards-stickers/products/you-are-loved-stickers> . What else might you do with these stickers? Why the rainbow? With its variety of colors all blending together in a spectrum, it is the perfect symbol to represent the vast diversity as well as the sense of unity within the LGBTQIA+ community.
 - For some background on LGBTQIA+ Pride Parades, watch [this](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chbNzB-FIuw) video from the National Museum of American History: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chbNzB-FIuw> and choose from these storybooks: <https://mombian.com/2022/04/19/12-new-kids-books-about-lgbtq-pride-a-pre-pride-roundup/>
- **Create** pride rainbow art on the sidewalk with sidewalk chalk, or on your windows with dry erase markers, or make rainbow bracelets with beads and/or embroidery floss. You can also make rainbow friendship rocks, piñatas, and leaf prints. The rainbow possibilities are endless! Give them away or make a display in your home or at church with friends.
- **Show** your colors by putting up a flag or putting out a yard sign.
- **Bake** a rainbow cake and read a story.
- **Advocate** by finding and partnering with a community organization on an ongoing basis. For example, a church partnered with a local teen organization and provided treats and needed supplies. Or as a family write public figures or support librarians.

RESOURCES

Here are 4 selected books on sexual or gender identity and friendship for young children:

- *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
This story is based on what happened with a real penguin family in Central Park Zoo in New York City. For ages 4 and up.
- *Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story About Gender and Friendship* by Jessica Walton
A story about being a good friend as well as being true to yourself, with age-appropriate language and images relating to gender equality. For ages 3-6.
- *Old Turtle* by Douglas Wood
Who in the animal kingdom has the right idea about what God is like? A beautiful story simply told that appeals to all ages.
- *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall
A blue crayon is labelled as red and tries to meet others' expectations without much success. A story about being true to your inner self. For ages 4-8.

18 Multicultural Children's Books Featuring LGBTQI Characters

<https://coloursofus.com/18-multicultural-childrens-books-featuring-lgbtqia-characters/>

Books with LGBTQ+ Characters

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/lists/lgbtq-books#preschoolers>

“Children of God,” a short video with a powerful message about the Body of Christ by Nadia Bolz-Weber

<https://vimeo.com/187856865> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSwfjGtdEk>

Diverse LGBTQ Inclusive Picture Books

<https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/welcoming-schools/documents/WS-LGBTQ-Inclusive-Picture-Books-Family.pdf?mtime=20210501080030&focal=none>

Games with LGBTQ+ Characters

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/lists/games-with-lgbtq-characters>

TV Shows with LGBTQ+ Characters

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/lists/tv-shows-with-lgbtq-characters>

For parents:

Talking with your children about sexual and gender identity

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/parents/identity>

For congregations:

[Our Whole Lives](#)

Holistic sexual health materials for age groups from Kindergarten through older adults; includes topics on healthy behaviors around gender and sexuality presented in age-appropriate ways.

<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/justice/health-and-wholeness-advocacy-ministries/sexuality-and-our-faith/justice_sexuality-education_our-whole-lives/>

Writer: Debbie Gline Allen, Commissioned Minister of Faith Formation, Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ

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