Suggested Readings for LGBTQ Parents

50 Ways to Support Lesbian & Gay Equality
The complete guide to supporting family, friends, neighbors,—or yourself…*
Homosexuality has been politicized, but all that controversy fades in the face of a real, live person who deserves basic human rights and freedoms. A timely and crucial guide for action, 50 Ways to Support Lesbian & Gay Equality offers informative and poignant essays that will deepen understanding while suggesting simple things you can do to achieve equality.
*Sold by COLAGE


Adoption And Parenting—Legal Issues For Lesbians And Gay Men
What gay or lesbian parents needs to know about legal issues affecting them and their children. Discusses, who is considered a legal parent, co-parents, adoption, donor insemination, foster parents, guardians, and custody. Written in plain English.


All The Ways Home
A collection of stories written for and by lesbian and gay parents exploring what it means to be a parent in the lgbt community.


An American Family
In 1995, Michael Galluccio and Jon Holden became foster parents to a HIV positive baby. The first unmarried couple in New Jersey to co-adopt a child, they went on to adopt another at risk infant and his 18-year-old pregnant sister. A moving account of their family story.


Becoming The Parent You Want To Be
A parenting “manual” that incorporates diverse viewpoints about raising children. Addresses toilet learning, parental anger, moving beyond punishment, resolving conflicts, sharing, playing, parenting with a partner, and gender roles.


Conceiving Parenthood
This book discusses parenting and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (lgbt) people and their children. It is a report aimed at getting attention paid, and change initiated in the fight for lgbt parenting rights.


Confessions of the Other Mother: Nonbiological Lesbian Moms Tell All!
A riveting collection of personal stories—sometimes humorous, sometimes painful, but at all times celebratory—by eighteen women who are transforming our view of two-parent families.


Considering Parenthood: A Handbook For Lesbians, 2nd Ed.
Everything you need to know about the process of becoming a parent—a little dated but still a classic. By one of the premire experts in the nation.


Different Mothers: Sons And Daughters Of Lesbians Talk About Their Lives*
A captivating compilation of stories of the lives of sons and daughters of lesbian mothers. The diverse group of authors range in age from seven years to middle aged and they all provide a wonderful record of how they feel about having
Suggested Readings for LGBTQ² Parents

Detonating The Nuclear Family
Lesbians talk about reconstructing the nuclear family and finding new ways to parent, love, care for and relate to one another.
J. Brosnan. Scarlet Press. 1996

Endangered Species
A novel about a gay man who becomes afraid that his family is “on the brink of extinction.” So he begins a search to find a child.
L. Bayard. Alyson Publications. 2001

Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell it Like it Is*
This book interweaves the author’s personal experiences of growing up with a gay father and straight mother, with those of other adult children of LGBT parents, based on 8 years of activism and over 50 interviews. Included are the topics of coming out, breakups, cultural queerness, second-generation queers, family definitions, and HIV/AIDS.
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Families Of Value
A collection of stories depicting the diversity of LGBT parents and their children.

Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship
Analysis of the history, sociology, and politics of gays, lesbians, and their families.

Final Closet: The Gay Parents’ Guide For Coming Out To Their Children
Written by psychologist Rip Corley, this book addresses the concerns of gay parents that are not yet out to their kids.
R. Corley. Editech Press, Miami. 1990

For Lesbian Parents
Lesbian parent’s guide to helping their family grow up happy, healthy and proud.

Gay Dads
Gay Dads includes 25 personal accounts gathered from gay men all over America describing their struggles and successes raising their children. Black and white photos throughout.

Gay Fathers
Guide to dealing with issues of gay fatherhood. Based on statistics and case histories.

Gay Parents/ Straight Schools: Building Communication and Trust
An ethnographic study about the re-education of the educational system to be respectful and conscious of students with gay and or lesbian parents.
V. Casper, S. Schultz. Teachers College Press, Columbia University. 1999

Gays, Lesbians, And Family Values
A look at the common experiences that make up LGBT family values and how a LGBT household can provide a nurturing and open-minded place to grow up.
D. Say, M. Kowalewski. Pilgrim Press. 1998

Get Used To It: Children Of Lesbian And Gay parents
A collection of photographs of children that have grown up with lesbian or gay parents. Accompanied by words from the Seventeen people aged from 15 to 34 who talk about growing up in New Zealand with their LGBT parent.

Getting Simon: Two Gay Doctors’ Journey To Fatherhood
A journal on the efforts a same-sex couple must make, and emotional costs that come with adoption. Contains an application and contract for a surrogate mother and a birth plan.
Suggested Readings for LGBTQ³Parents

Helping The Stork: The Choices And Challenges Of Donor Insemination
An informative, thorough and supportive text on the subject of donor insemination. C. Vercollone, H. Moss, Robert Moss, IDG Books, 1997

The Kid: What happened After Me And My Boyfriend Decided to Get Pregnant
This is a hilarious account of how Dan Savage and his partner adopted their son.

Legal Affairs: Essential Advice For Same-Sex Couples
A book written for same-sex couples that covers social, legal, psychological, and financial aspects of forming or dissolving same-sex partnerships.

A Legal Guide For Lesbian and Gay Couples, 10th Edition
An excellent resource for all lesbian and gay couples: includes information on custody, parent’s and partner’s rights, and domestic partner benefits.

Lesbian And Gay Families Speak Out: Understanding The Joys And Challenges Of Diverse Family Life
This book discusses coming out, dealing with prejudice, coping with spirituality, family relationships, and child development through the stories of over two-dozen LGBT families.

Lesbian And Gay Fostering And Adoption: Extraordinary Yet Ordinary
Written in the United Kingdom by lesbian and gay parents about their experiences with adoption, this book is both comprehensive and moving.

Lesbian And Gay Parenting Handbook
The complete guide to LGBT parenting, including many examples of gay and lesbian parents and their kids.
By noted author and psychologist April Martin.

Lesbian And Gay Voices: An Annotated Bibliography And Guide To Literature For Children And Young Adults
This is a great resource for students, parents and teachers alike. It features 275 recommended books that feature a diversity of major and minor LGBT characters.
A. Day. Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc. 2000

Lesbians and Lesbian Families
This is a collection of articles that examines lesbians and their families in a sociocultural context and shows how new insights can be integrated into clinical theory and practice. About lesbian identities, experiences, and relationships can be integrated into clinical theory and practice. It is written by a family therapist in her attempt to learn how to better understand the changing family.

Lesbian Motherhood In Europe
Discusses the evolving place of the lesbian family. Mothers talk about how to conceive a child; the effects of children on lesbian relationships; lesbian identity; friends, family and colleagues; relationships with the father; role models; and lesbian motherhood as a political act.

Lesbian Mothers
Mothers telling their stories in their own words - discussing child care, friends and lover, finances, and custody.

Lesbians Raising Sons
A collection of essays on what it means to be a lesbian raising a son. Discusses things like feminism, coping with homophobia, and male role models.
Lesbian Step Families: An Ethnography Of Love
Explores five family’s definitions of the stepparent, and how they fulfill parenting roles.

Living “Difference”: Lesbian Perspectives On Work And Family Life
A collection of essays that explore the dynamics of lesbian relationships - specifically how they shape family and work life.

Love Makes A Family: Portraits Of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, And Transgender Parents And Their Families
Beautifully combines interviews and photographs to document the experiences of lgbt parents and their children.

Making Love Visible: In Celebration of Gay and Lesbian Families
This book is a remarkable spectrum of family structure and displays to the reader beautiful true stories that sum up the basis of every family: love.

Mother Journeys: Feminists Write about Mothering
A collection of essays, stories, poems, and artwork dealing with the co-existence of feminism and motherhood.

Mothering Without A Compass: White Mother’s Love, Black Son’s Courage
In 1997 Becky Thompson was asked by, nine-year-old, Adrian’s mother to become his caretaker. As a white lesbian with a new black son she tells the absorbing and often humorous story of her attempt at antiracist, multicultural, parenting.

My Husband Is Gay
About self-discovery and how women come to terms when their husbands come out of the closet.
C. Grever. The crossing press, freedom CA.2001

Nobody’s Children: Orphans of the HIV Epidemic
This book incorporates statistics and facts with the personal experiences of children whose lives have been affected by the HIV epidemic.

Opening Doors: Lesbian & Gay Parents and Schools
A handbook for parents and educators that explores the relationship between parents, their children, child care and school personnel to create a more inclusive educational environment for children of LGBT parents.

The Other Mother: A Lesbian’s Fight For Her Daughter
This book begins when the author and her partner decide to conceive. After their child is born the two split up and Abrams is deemed "a biological stranger" and loses custody of her daughter.

Our Families, Our Values
Explores what “family” means inside the lgbt community, as well as the challenges lgbt families present to the straight community.

Out of The Ordinary
A groundbreaking collection of essays written by and for teenage and adult children of Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Bisexual parents.

Parents At Last
A book telling the stories of 32 families and their struggles of building a family.
A. Peck. Clarkson Potter. 1998
Politics Of The Heart: A Lesbian Parenting Anthology

An anthology of writing on lesbian parenting by politicians, mothers, co-parents, and women with no children.

Ed. by Sandra Pollack and J. Vaughn. Firebrand Books, Ithica 1987
Suggested Readings for LGBTQ Parents

Queer families Common Agendas
Gay people, Lesbians And Family Values.
A book about gay and lesbian parenting rights in
the U.S. and Canada.
(Ed) T. Sullivan, Journal of gay and lesbian social services. 1999

Queer families, Queer Politics
Discusses the intersection of personal and political
lgbt family issues and gives special attention to
families of color, immigrant, and poor families. It
also discusses how family politics are com-placated
by bisexuality, nonmonagamy, and gender
nonconformity.

Queer Family Values: Debunking The Myth Of The Nuclear Family
Critiques the desire for legalization of gay and
lesbian marriage and the importance of not
conforming to a heterosexual society. The new idea
of family is built around “care” rather than biology,
sexual relationships, or rights
V. Lehr. Temple University Press. 1999

Queer Parents Primer
All sorts of information about raising a child in a lgbt
household from choosing schools, to single
parenting and gender awareness, great for any lgbt
family.
S. A. Brill. New Harbinger Publications. 2001

Reinventing The Family
A discourse on the issues involved in lgbt parenting:
custody, foster care, AIDS, adoption.

The Room Lit By Roses
Carole Maso’s Journal begins as she and her
partner pray for 40-year-old Carol to cocieve and
follows her story through the birth of her
daughter Rose.

School’s Out
A book that explores all aspects of gay and
lesbian issues in public schools, from lgbt youth
to their straight allies to safe sex.
D. Woog. Alyson Publications, Boston, MA. 1995

There’s Something I’ve Been Meaning To Tell You
True life stories from 25 lesbians and gay parents
who have come out to their children.

Trans Forming Families: Real Stories About Transgendered Loved Ones
Thirty-one true stories by brave and loving mothers,
fathers, spouses and partners, grandparents, adult
children, siblings and friends about their struggle to
understand, accept and keep on loving their
transgendered family members.

Too High a Price
This book was created by the ACLU Lesbian &
Gay Rights Project to provide a wealth of
resources proving that it is bad policy to restrict
parenting by LGBT people.

Ultimate Guide To Pregnancy For Lesbians
A resource book written specifically for lesbians on
how to get pregnant, maintain your health, protect
your legal rights, give birth, be a single parent, or be
a co-parent.

Unexpected Child: A Novel
Meg Krantz is a single and independent lesbian.
After meeting a four-and-half-year-old orphan girl
while volunteering a an AIDS service provider, she
may change her mind.

The Velveteen Father
A moving memoir of a gay man’s unexpected
journey into fatherhood as he meets and falls in love
with another gay man who has adopted children.
Suggested Readings for LGBTQ Parents

Waiting In The Wings: Portrait Of Queer Motherhood
A journal of being a Latina lesbian mother, and a writer, during the birth and early years of her son’s life.

The Way We Really Are Coming To Terms With America’s Changing Family
Countz looks at the reality of the modern family including; working mothers, marriage, children in gay and lesbian families, the strengths and weaknesses of single-parent households, and the significant lag between our new social realities and the values, behavior, and institutions struggling to adjust.

We Are Family: Testimonials Of Lesbian And Gay Parents, Sexual Politics
This book confronts the taboos and myths about same-sex parenthood; artificial insemination; surrogate mothers; adoption and fostering; custody battles; what to tell the children; what to tell your neighbors; and what kids say about their LGBT parents.

Women In Love: Portraits of Lesbian Mothers and Their Families
A beautiful collection of photographs and stories of lesbian mothers and their families.

Women Together: Portraits of Love, Commitment and Life
A portrait of lesbian couples accompanied by stories. Not specifically about family but a beautiful book nonetheless.

No Longer In Print

The following is a list of excellent books that are out of print. We suggest that you try to find them at your local library or used bookstore.

Different Mothers: Sons And Daughters Of Lesbians Talk About Their Lives*

Family Values: Two Moms And their Son

Lesbian And Gay Men As Foster Parents

*Sold by COLAGE. Please contact the office for purchasing information. (415)861-5437

For People with LGBTQ Spouses

Closet
This book discusses what happens to wives whose husbands come out. Talks about sexual orientation, the coming out process, women’s reactions, and AIDS.

My Husband Is Gay
About self-discovery and how women come to terms when their husbands come out of the closet.

Other Side of the Closet: The Coming-Out Crisis for Straight Spouses and Families
Based on five years of research, this book explores major issues that arise for straight spouses when their wives or husbands come out.

When Husbands Come Out Of The Closet
This book discusses what happens to wives whose husbands come out. Talks about sexual orientation, the coming out process, women’s reactions, and AIDS.
**Publications Of Interest**

**And Baby Magazine**
The new magazine for proud LGBT parents and parents to be.
info@andbabymag.com, 55 Washington Street, Suite 812, Brooklyn, NY 11201, http://www.andbabymag.com

**Arise: For Diverse People Of African Decent**
Made for LGBT people, and their loved ones, of African decent. Covers family, travel, music and many other areas of interest.
2121 Perlata St., Loft 126, Oakland CA 94907, (510)663-2743 arisemagazine@aol.com

**Gay Parent**
A resource for lesbian and gay parents or perspective parents.
Gay Parent Magazine, P.O. Box 75085, Forest Hills, NY, 11375 gayparentmag@banet.com

**HipMama Magazine**
The independent magazine that serves as proof that motherhood doesn't need to be boring or apolitical!
Hip Mama, PO Box 12525, Portland, OR 97212
http://www.hipmama.com

**Journal of GLBT Family Studies**
Addresses family issues and concerns important to GLBT individuals and their families of origin, as well as families formed in adulthood.
Haworth Press, Inc and Harrington Park Press, Binghamton, NY. 2005

**Just For Us**
COLAGE's quarterly newsletter, packed with fun stuff for children and LGBT parents!
COLAGE, 1550 Bryant St., Suite 830 San Francisco, CA 94 COLAGE@coloage.org

**In The Family: The Magazine For Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals And Their Relations**
A magazine about love, intimacy and family.
P.O. Box 5387, Takoma Park, MD 20913, (301)270-4771
www.inthefamily.com

**Proud Parenting**
An excellent publication for articles and resources for LGBT parents and their children.
Box 8272, Van Nuys, CA 91409-8272, (818)909-0048, info@proudparenting.com

**Transgender Tapestry**
A leading source for stimulating dialogue covering a wide range of gender topics, from medical and psychological care to family and partner issues.
P.O. Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454-0229 (781)894-8340
http://www.ifge.org/lgm-ag/lgm-ag.htm