



Book and Media Reviews for Parents and Carers

For Parents and Carers




Books and media can be a great way to help your child learn about LGBT people, events, history and themes. If you are looking for materials that you may enjoy reading or watching with your child, this document contains our reviews for a selection of books and films. Each review contains an overview, the age range this material is suitable for, and some ideas for conversations you may wish to have with your child after reading or watching. Some of the films are available on YouTube for free, others on streaming services or DVD.

These reviews are designed to help parents and carers in Scotland select books and films that can be used to introduce and develop the LGBT Inclusive Education Learning Themes with their child. It is not intended as a prescriptive list, but to provide a guide and show how they can be effectively used as a prompt for discussion.

The books and films reviewed within this document were not done so in partnership with any author, producer or publisher. The books and films were reviewed by registered teachers in Scotland, but are not specifically endorsed or sponsored by Time for Inclusive Education. In the first instance, parents and carers are encouraged to read or watch the media themselves. This will support any discussions or learning they wish to share with their child.

Young people who are LGBT, are thought to be LGBT by others, or have LGBT family members can face bullying and prejudice at school. Ensuring that all young people see representations of LGBT people and families in their learning can help to inspire mutual respect, understanding, and empathy for others.



Books for Early Years

Mommy, Mama and Me

By Leslĕa Newman

This children's board book shows the gentle and nurturing day to day activities in the life of a young child with two mums. It is written in rhyme and has lovely watercolour illustrations on each page.

You could discuss:

- ◆ What activity is their favourite?
- ◆ What activities have they done today?
- ◆ Would they like to draw one of today's activities?



Love in the Wild

By Katy Tanis

Love in the Wild is a colourful children's board book which explores the different types of love found in the Animal Kingdom, with an overall message of looking after each other and loving yourself for who you are.

You could discuss:

- ◆ Which animal picture is their favourite?
- ◆ What animals would they be? What animal would you be?
- ◆ How do they show people they care about them?



Films for Early Years

Peppa Pig: "Families"

Running time: 5 minutes

In this episode of Peppa Pig, Peppa and her friends draw pictures of their families. One of her classmates, Penny Polar Bear, draws a picture of her two mummies.

You could discuss:

- ◆ Did any of the characters have a family like yours?
- ◆ All families are different, but they are all families.
- ◆ Would you like to draw our family?



Sesame Street: "Anyone Can Play"

Running time: 1 minute

In this clip from Sesame Street, the cast sings about playing. The song explains that boys and girls don't have to have set roles, but can play as whoever they want. The full episode covers this idea in further detail.

You could discuss:

- ◆ What types of dress-up characters do you like to play?
- ◆ Do you think there are boys' toys and girls' toys?
- ◆ Gender stereotypes in other areas (e.g. careers or hobbies)



Books for Primary

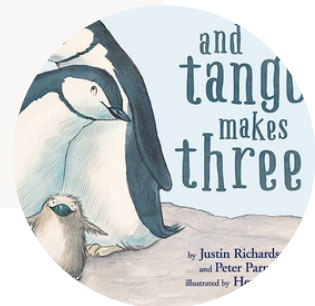
And Tango Makes Three

By Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

This book tells the true story of Roy and Silo, two male penguins at Central Park Zoo. They form a couple and are given an egg to care for. When it hatches, baby penguin Tango joins their family.

You could discuss:

- ◆ If they went to a zoo, what animal would they like to see?
- ◆ Does anyone they know have two dads or two mums?
- ◆ Have they seen the penguin parade at Edinburgh Zoo?



Wain

By Rachel Plummer

Wain is a beautifully illustrated book of poetry based on Scottish folklore. It reimagines classic tales like Nessie or Kelpies to include LGBT identities in traditional Scottish stories.

You could discuss:

- ◆ What is their favourite poem?
- ◆ Do they know any Scottish myths that aren't in the book?
- ◆ Do they want to draw an illustration for one of the poems?



Books for Primary

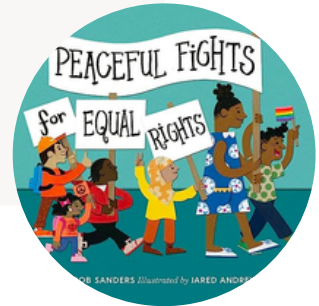
Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights

By Rob Sanders

Using a loose alphabet theme, this book lists different methods of non-violent protest that have been used through history. The accompanying illustrations portray various civil rights campaigns.

You could discuss:

- ◆ Do you know about any of the protests in the book?
- ◆ Why is non-violence important?
- ◆ What would you change in the world?



The Last Firefox

By Lee Newbery

Charlie is being bullied at school and is worried about how to be a good big brother when his dads adopt another baby. Maybe finding and protecting Cadno the Firefox will help Charlie with his own problems?

You could discuss:

- ◆ Do they know what to do if they see or experience bullying?
- ◆ Does protecting Cadno help Charlie with his own problems?
- ◆ If they could invent a mythical creature, what would it be?



Films for Primary

What Makes A Family?

Running time: 3 minutes

In this video, two families talk about what makes a family. This includes a family with two mums and a family with two dads. Their children also speak about their same-sex parent families.

You could discuss:

- ◆ How would they answer 'What Makes a Family?'
- ◆ Did these families have anything in common?
- ◆ Making a video interview with your own family.



In A Heartbeat

Running time: 4 minutes

In this animation, a schoolboy experiences his first crush on another boy in his school. While he wants to keep it a secret, his heart has other ideas. Will he be okay if others find out about his crush?

You could discuss:

- ◆ Why was the boy so worried about others finding out?
- ◆ How did the film tell the story without anyone speaking?
- ◆ They can talk to you no matter who they have a crush on.



Books for Secondary

King and the Dragonflies

By Kacen Callender

King is struggling to cope with the death of his brother. When a classmate runs away from his racist and homophobic father, King agrees to help, but has to deal with his own prejudices and fears.

You could discuss:

- ◆ What did King learn in this story?
- ◆ What have they learned about racism and homophobia?
- ◆ What could they do if they are worried about a classmate?



Have Pride

By Stella Caldwell

A broad non-fiction LGBT history book, 'Have Pride' is suitable for all secondary school learners, particularly those who are new to learning about LGBT history. The positive and supportive tone will benefit LGBT readers.

You could discuss:

- ◆ Have they learned about any of this history before?
- ◆ What section did they find the most interesting?
- ◆ Do they think any of these figures is a good role model?



Films for Secondary

Battle of the Sexes

Running time: 2 hours 1 minute

The story of Billie Jean King, tennis world champion, lesbian, and campaigner for gender pay equality in the 1970s. This film portrays her famous tennis match against Bobby Riggs, self-proclaimed 'male chauvinist'.

You could discuss:

- ◆ What do they know about the campaign for equal pay?
- ◆ What were LGBT rights like in this time period?
- ◆ Billie Jean King's continued activism and later life.



Pride

Running time: 1 hour 59 minutes

Pride is based on the true story of a group of LGBT activists from London in 1984 who fundraised to support a Welsh mining village during the strike of 1984/85. Their actions build understanding between the two communities

You could discuss:

- ◆ What was life like for LGBT people in 1980s Britain?
- ◆ Was it important that these communities worked together?
- ◆ Joe's family reaction and what you would do differently.



For more information



Time for Inclusive Education (TIE) is Scotland's LGBT Inclusive Education charity. We address homophobic, biphobic and transphobic prejudice and bullying through education. We create resources for schools, run workshops and assemblies for young people, and deliver professional learning for teachers on behalf of the Scottish Government. Visit tie.scot for more information.



lgbteducation.scot is the national platform for LGBT Inclusive Education. It hosts the national professional learning for teachers, all example resources, and all guidance relevant to LGBT Inclusive Education. This includes full guidance for parents and carers from the National Parent Forum of Scotland.

