

LGBT Parents and their Children

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Introduction

Recently, international groups that advocate on the behalf of LGBT families have declared May 6, 2012 to be International Family Equality Day¹. While this day is meant to highlight to increasingly visibility of LGBT families it is also a celebration of the diverse forms that families can take on. This is just one of the many changes that have occurred since the first version of this document was publishes, in 2003. Over the course of the past eight years, six states and Washington D.C. have come to legally recognize same-sex marriages, the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer being enforced, Don't Ask Don't Tell was repealed, and same-sex couples can now adopt in a number of states, including Florida². Traditionally, depictions of the family have often centered on the heteronormative nuclear family of mother, father, and child(ren). However, as time has gone on we have seen that family forms have become increasingly diverse and include: single parents, child-free couples, parents who adopt or are foster parents, multiracial couples and their children, stepfamilies, etc. Parents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT), and their children are contributing to this societal shift that is broadening the traditional and idealized notion of family.

The presence of LGBT families in media, courts, and research has grown over the last ten years. What may have been a previously labeled as the "gayby boom"³ is now becoming a more commonly recognized by individuals and professionals means of forming a family. Mainstream TV shows such as *Modern Family* have highlighted that there is something to be gained from embracing the of diversity of LGBT families. This highlights that there is progress that may be due in part to the contemporary scholars who research "LGBT" or "Queer" families (these are the most inclusive descriptors for these families⁴). Regardless of how these families are referred to, they are becoming increasingly visible and are challenging definitions of what it means to be a family. According to one of the most respected experts in this field, Judith Stacey, "Gay and lesbian families represent such a new, embattled, visible, and necessarily self-conscious genre of kinship, that they help to expose the widening gap between the complex reality of contemporary family forms and the dated family ideology that still undergirds most public rhetoric, policy, and law concerning families".⁵

The grassroots gay liberation movement of the 1960s-70s led to an increase in the acceptability of LGBT identities. Yet, it was not until this past decade that "having a family" was an option available to lesbian and gay individuals and couples. Policies and laws are now being challenged in the nation's and world's courts, since existing legislation does not accurately represent the current needs of LGBT families. Although there has been progress, there has also been backlash. Laws vary from state to state and county to county. Some courts represent these families fairly while others persist in denying their legitimacy as well as their very existence.

The legal system has historically been unfair to LGBT persons and families, which means that social scientists have played a major role in building the case that LGBT families are valid and their children are not adversely affected by their upbringing. Over the course of the past 40 years, a number of studies have been conducted by family sociologists, psychologists, and other scholarly researchers. Repeatedly these experts conclude that no evidence exists to demonstrate that lesbian and gays are unfit as parents or that their children are psychologically or physically harmed by having lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender parents.

What we know about LGBT Parents and their Children⁶

What do LGBT families look like?

Similar to heterosexual families, there is no singular LGBT family form, because the makeup of all families varies greatly. Not only do differences exist in terms of family relations, sizes, and forms, there is also diversity in terms of race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, political affiliation, physical ability, religious tradition, etc. Some examples of LGBT family forms include a gay male couple who foster or adopt one or more children, or a lesbian couple who used a sperm donor to create a child. Much of the earliest research on LGBT parents and families involved a lesbian woman or gay man who was previously in a heterosexual marriage. After divorcing (often coinciding with their "coming out"), they negotiated custody with their former spouse. LGBT families also include single gay fathers and single lesbian mothers who are single by choice or following the death of a partner. Some LGBT families consist of combinations of LGBT individuals who raise children as platonic co-parents. Again, as with heterosexual families, LGBT families can take on many forms and these are only a few examples of them.

How many families are headed by LGBT parent(s)?

There is little consensus among experts as to the prevalence of LGBT parents and their children. Estimates have varied greatly, ranging from 1-20 million children in the United States under the age of 18 who have one or more gay or lesbian parent. An accurate number is, understandably, difficult to calculate. LGBT families are often invisible and for some, it is still unsafe for them to be "out." A widely accepted statistic of 6 million children was first introduced in 1987⁷. While social climate has changed dramatically in nearly two decades, the most frequently cited number has remained static. According to analyses of Census 2000⁸, 1 in 3 lesbian couples and 1 in 5 gay male couples have at least one child under the age of 18 in their household. Of the more than 900,000 self-identified same-sex

¹ Press Release (July 29, 2011). "International LGBT Family Organizations Announce 'International Family Equality Day' for 2012." PR Web. Retrieved on August 13, 2011 from (http://www.prweb.com/releases/lgbt_family_equality/symposium_day_r_family/prweb8683015.htm)

² See Lesbian/Gay Law Notes: Summer 2011

³ Salholz, Eloise. (1990, March 12). "The Future of Gay America." *Newsweek*, 23.

⁴ Alternative families" is limiting because it presumes that research will be presented in a defensive stance, setting heterosexual families as the standard to which LGBT parents and their children should be compared. "Same-sex parents" is problematic because it excludes a significant population of LGBT parents, specifically lesbian mothers or gay fathers who are single by choice or circumstance, as well as combinations of gay men and lesbian women who are co-parenting together.

⁵ See Stacey, 2003, 145.

⁶ Numerous meta-analyses have been conducted in the last 10 years summarizing the current state of research on LGBT families. For the purposes of this fact sheet the major articles that were drawn on to create this summary were drawn from a review of the articles listed under the "Major Research Articles Section."

⁷ "ABA Annual Meeting Provides Forum for Family Law Experts." (August 25, 1987). 13 *Family Law Report* (BNA) 1512.

⁸ Simmons, Tavia and O'Connell, Martin. "Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000." U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, www.census.gov, February 2003. p. 10. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/censr-5.pdf>

couples in the 2010 Census, approximately 22% of them are raising children⁹. This statistic solely focuses on couples and excludes single LGBT parents, which has been noted as a limitation of certain data collection methods that cannot accurately capture the presence of LGBT families in the U.S. (i.e. the U.S. Census).

What are the research conclusions about LGBT parents and their children?

Historically, assumptions that LGBT parents were unfit threatened their right to raise children. All of the existing social research studies (appearing in rigorously peer reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *American Journal of Sociology*, and *Child Development*, as outlined in the meta-analyses listed in the *Major Research Articles* section below) dispute this notion, instead asserting that LGBT individuals and couples are just as fit and effective parents as their heterosexual counterparts. Families headed by LGBT individuals and couples show few significant differences from other families. Indeed, children of LGBT parents are also just as healthy and well-adjusted as other children and their parents spend much of their everyday lives engaged in typical parenting activities such as getting the kids ready for school, arranging extracurricular activities, struggling to juggle the demands of work and family life, etc.

An overview of the existing research indicates that there are also no significant differences on the following dimensions:

- Gay and lesbian parents are comparable to heterosexual parents in the areas of mental health, self-esteem, approaches and skills related to parenting, as well as ability and commitment to parenting.
- Unlike the persistent myths portraying LGBT individuals as sexual predators, they are actually no more likely than heterosexuals to abuse their children.
- Children of LGBT parents are likely to develop gender-roles that are much like those of children raised by heterosexuals, with some exceptions, as explained in "advantages."
- Multiple measures of children's psychological well-being and social adjustment (e.g. self-esteem, anxiety, depression, behavioral problems, performance in school and extracurricular activities, IQ, ability to make friends, sociability and quality of relationships with peers and intimates, etc.) indicate no difference compared with their peers.
- Children with lesbian mothers develop closer relationships to their mother's new female partner when compared to the level of closeness that children of single heterosexual mothers report having with their mother's new male partner.
- Lesbian co-parents are more egalitarian in terms of parenting and family responsibilities than are heterosexual couples.

Advantages: Positive outcomes experienced by LGBT parents and their children

- While there is an assumption that children raised by LGBT parents lack relationships and positive role models with adults of a gender other than that of their parent(s), research suggests the contrary. Same-sex parents provide their children with a wide array of role models from both genders (i.e. extended family members and affiliated kin).
- LGBT parents are somewhat more nurturing and tolerant than heterosexual parents.
- Children of LGBT parent(s) are more open-minded, less prejudiced, and express a greater sense of social responsibility than their peers.
- Daughters of lesbian mothers have higher self-esteem and aspire to future careers and occupations outside of those typically considered to be roles for women, such as nursing or teaching. In fact, they are more likely to aspire to be doctors, engineers, and astronauts than are daughters of heterosexual mothers.
- Sons of lesbian mothers are less physically aggressive, more caring, and more capable of communicating their feelings. They have higher levels of self-esteem and aspire to a wider range of career opportunities than do sons of heterosexual mothers.

Challenges faced by LGBT parents and their children

- LGBT parents who come out of a heterosexual marriage experience more difficulty arranging custody visits than heterosexual parents; yet the children benefit from more contact with their non-custodial parent than children of divorced heterosexual parents.
- Young adults of LGBT parents are more likely to experience stigma from their peers regarding their own sexuality than are the kids of heterosexual parents.
- Current federal and state legislation both in the United States and internationally continue to pose a challenge for many families although not as much as they have in the past. See the tables below.
- Overcoming legal discrimination and social prejudice are difficulties faced by many LGBT parents and their children. Not only are LGBT families largely culturally invisible, they often struggle to deal with homophobia and heterosexism.

Are Children of LGBT Parents more likely to grow up to be LGBT themselves?

Evidence from the existing studies are unclear regarding this question.

- Extensive studies have been published looking at the fitness of LGBT individuals as parents and compare the children of LGBT parent(s) with those of heterosexual parents indicate that there are no significant differences in terms of gender identity and sexual orientation (see Biblarz & Savci 2010, Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns 2005, Johnson & O'Connor 2002, and Patterson 1995).
- One of the first studies that followed children of LGBT parents until adulthood found no difference in the proportion of those identifying as LGBT compared to the general population. However, children of lesbian mothers were more likely to have considered the possibility of having a same-sex relationship or have experienced one (see Golombok and Tasker 1996). A follow-up study was conducted that confirmed the results of the initial study (MacCullum & Golombok 2004).
- Children raised in LGBT families express greater openness to homosexuality or bisexuality reducing the risk of denial or self-loathing for those children who may question their sexuality. According to Stacy, "It seems likely that growing up with gay parents should reduce a child's reluctance to acknowledge, accept, or act upon same-sex sexual desires if they experience them. Because the first generation of children parented by self-identified lesbians or gay men is just now reaching adulthood, it is too soon to know if the finding in that one study will prove to be generally true" (See *Why it's Wrong: The Social Science Case, A Conversation with Professor Judith Stacey*).

What we do not know about LGBT Parenting and Children

At the time that this fact sheet was first constructed the majority of studies on LGBT families were based on small scale, self-selected, convenience samples. Oftentimes snowball sampling led to a very small portion of the LGBT population being heard leading to samples that were disproportionately urban, white, and affluent. Early research on lesbian and gay parenting emerged in the late 1970s and early 1980s to "test" whether lesbian women or gay men were "fit" parents in custody cases. These studies tended to come from a "deviance" perspective, comparing LGBT families to the assumed heteronormative "ideal. More recent studies have sought to be more

⁹ The Williams Institute. "United States Census Snapshot:2010" http://services.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/Census2010Snapshot_US.pdf

representative of the LGBT community. This is seen in representative national surveys (i.e. U.S. Census, the General Social Survey, etc.) including options that more accurately allow LGBT families to identify themselves and their family situations. In addition to more representative samples, there have also been longitudinal studies that have followed LGBT parents and their children (see Biblarz and Savci, 2010).

Often the ability of researchers to study certain portions of the LGBT population is limited by access; however, we continue to see a growing number of studies addressing the variety of forms that families can take on. There should be continued efforts to study lesbian and gay families, but also an expansion of research on bisexual and transgender parents as these families are still underrepresented in academic studies.

Areas that Need Continued Exploration Regarding LGBT Families

- Continued efforts to see more inclusive representations of LGBT families. This means being aware of different ages, races, ethnicities, incomes, level of education, and geographic locations.
- How do the different statuses that LGBT parents and children impact their lives?
- What challenges do bisexual and transgender parents face and how are they similar or different to other family structures?
- How do perceptions of LGBT family structures vary internationally and what challenges do these perceptions present?

Position Statements of Major Organizations and Associations

For over 30 years experts and major professional associations have asserted that there is nothing deviant or pathological about LGBT sexual orientations. The number of researchers, professors, physicians, psychologists and other experts who have voiced their support for LGBT parents and families has continued to grow. In the interest of space, only the position statement of the *American Psychological Association* is included in this factsheet. Other organizations make similar assertions that may be obtained through their websites. Links to the policy statements for the organizations listed below are available at:

<http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/krisj/LGBTQfamilies/policystatements.html>

- American Psychological Association (1976)
- Child Welfare League of America (1988)
- American Bar Association (1995)
- North American Council on Adoptable Children (1998)
- American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (1999)
- American Counseling Association (1999) - Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling Division
- American Academy of Pediatrics (2002)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (2002)
- American Psychiatric Association (2002)
- American Psychoanalytic Association (2002)
- National Association of Social Workers (2002)
- Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists (2002)
- American Medical Association (2004)
- Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute (2006)
- Voice for Adoption (2006)
- National Adoption Center (Revised in 2008)
- National Foster Parent Association
- National Association of School Psychologists

U.S. State Policies & Legislation

Policies and Legislation regarding the legal rights of LGBT parents are constantly fluctuating. Beyond this there is a wide range of perspectives that the individual states take on these families. States indicated with an (*) have laws that explicitly allow LGBT parents a given right while the additional states listed do not explicitly prohibit those rights and have not had previous instances of denying them. (Current as of August 31, 2011)

Custody and Visitation	States that have not been found to discriminate against sexual orientation in custody/visitation rulings: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, D.C., Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
Adoption: Same-sex (Joint)	States granting same-sex couples joint adoption: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas*, California*, Colorado*, Connecticut*, D.C.*, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois*, Indiana*, Iowa*, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine*, Maryland, Massachusetts*, Minnesota*, Missouri, Montana, Nevada*, New Hampshire*, New Jersey*, New Mexico, New York*, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon*, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont*, Virginia, Washington*, West Virginia, Wyoming
Second Parent	States recognizing same-sex second parent adoption: Alabama*, Alaska*, Arizona, Arkansas*, California*, Colorado*, Connecticut*, D.C.*, Delaware*, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland*, Massachusetts*, Michigan, Minnesota*, Missouri, Montana, Nevada*, New Hampshire*, New Jersey*, New Mexico*, New York*, North Carolina*, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon*, Pennsylvania*, Rhode Island*, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas*, Vermont*, Virginia, Washington*, West Virginia, Wyoming
Lesbian and Gay Individuals	States allowing lesbian and gay individuals to adopt: Forty-eight states and D.C. allow single individuals to adopt. Nebraska and Utah have provisions stating that individuals who are known to be homosexual cannot adopt, nor can single individuals who are in a cohabitating relationship. In the remaining states the restrictions that are place on who can adopt are based on the living environment is the best choice for the child(ren).

Foster Parenting	States Allowing lesbian and gay individuals to be foster parents: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, D.C., Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
Compiled from information at HRC http://www.hrc.org/issues/parenting/adoptions/adoption_laws.asp?listpage=1 and NGLTF http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/adoption_laws and http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/foster_care_regulations . Retrieved August 13, 2011.	
**Note that while some states may not explicitly prohibit LGBT individuals and couples from adopting that there are restrictions placed in terms of the adoptees needing to be married.	

International Laws

International laws on LGBT relationships and families will vary. Similar to in the U.S. policies regarding marriage are separate from parenting laws and often marriage is a prerequisite to being able to adopt.

Joint Adoptions	Countries that allow lesbian and gay parents to jointly adopt: Argentina*, Australia, Belgium*, Brazil, Canada, Denmark*, Iceland*, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway*, Portugal, South Africa*, Spain*, Sweden*, United Kingdom*, United States
Second Parent Adoptions	Countries that allow second parent adoptions: Australia, Belgium*, Canada, Denmark*, Finland*, France, Germany*, Iceland*, Netherlands*, Norway*, Spain*, Sweden*, United Kingdom, United States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrieved on August 28, 2011 from The International Lesbian and Gay Association Web site: http://www.ilga.org/ * Indicates adoption rights are allowed throughout the entire country. All other countries adoption rights are only permitted in certain jurisdictions 	

Resources:

There are numerous resources for scholars wishing to study LGBT parenting issues as well as LGBT persons who are or are planning to become parents. Below is a list of major national and international organizations, key research articles, books, websites, films, educational curricula, and other resources such as magazines and family events. As categories are rather extensive we have included a small portion of the information in this fact sheet with a more comprehensive resources section (as of August 31, 2011) at:

<http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/krisj/LGBTQfamilies/resources.html>

Organizations

- All Children – All Families
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Lesbian & Gay Rights
- COLAGE: People With a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Queer Parent
- Family Equality Council
- Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC): Family Project
- International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association (ILGA)
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF): Parenting & Family
- Our Family Coalition
- Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
- Welcoming Schools Project
- The Williams Institute

Major Research Articles:

- Allen, K.R., Demo, D.H. (1995). "The Families of Lesbians and Gay Men: A New Frontier in Family Research," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 57:111-127.
- Allen, Mike and Nancy Burrell. (1996). "Comparing the Impact of Homosexual and Heterosexual Parents on Children: Meta-Analysis of Existing Research." *Journal of Homosexuality* 32:19-35.
- Biblarz, Timothy J. and Evren Savci. (2010). "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Families." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72: 480-497.
- Bozett F.W. (ed.). (1987). *Gay and Lesbian Parents*. New York: Praeger.
- Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns. (2005). "Lesbian & Gay Parenting." American Psychological Association. (<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/parenting-full.pdf>)
- Cooper, Leslie and Paul Cates. (2006). *Too High A Price: The Case Against Restricting Gay Parenting*, 2nd Edition. New York: American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. http://www.aclufl.org/take_action/download_resources/too%20high%20a%20price.pdf
- Farr, R. H., S.L. Forssell, and C.J. Patterson. (2010). *Parenting and Child Development in Adoptive Families: Does Parental Sexual Orientation Matter?* *Applied Developmental Science*, 14: 164-178.
- Gates, Gary J., M.V. Lee Badgett, Jennifer Ehrle Macomber, and Kate Chambers. 2007. "Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States." The Williams Institute & Urban Institute. (<http://www3.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/FinalAdoptionReport.pdf>)
- Goldberg, Abbie E. (2007). "(How) Does it Make a Difference? Perspectives of Adults with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Parents." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 77: 550-562.
- Golombok, Susan and Fiona Tasker. (1996). "Do Parents Influence the Sexual Orientation of Their Children? Findings From a Longitudinal Study of Lesbian Families." *Developmental Psychology* 32:3-11.
- Israel, Gianna E. (2006). "Translove: Transgender Persons and Their Families." In Jerry J. Bigner (Ed.). *An Introduction to GLBT Family Studies* (pp. 51-65).
- Johnson, Suzanne M. and Elizabeth O'Connor. (2002). *The Gay Baby Boom: The Psychology of Gay Parenthood*. New York: New York University Press.

- Laird, Joan. (1993). "Lesbian and Gay Families," In *Normal Family Processes*, 2nd ed., edited by F. Walsh, New York: Guilford Press.
- Leonard, Arthur (Ed.). (2011). *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes: Summer 2011*. New York Law School. (<http://www.nyls.edu/jac>)
- MacCullum, Fiona and Susan Golombok. (2004). "Children Raised in Fatherless Families From Infancy: A Follow-up of Children of Lesbian and Single Heterosexual Mothers at Early Adolescence." *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 23: 219-233.
- Patterson, Charlotte J. (1995). "Summary of research findings." In *Lesbian and Gay Parenting: A Resource for Psychologists* (pp. 1 - 12). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. Retrieved October 1, 2003, from the American Psychological Association, Public Interest Directorate Web site: <http://www.apa.org/pi/parent.html>
- Patterson, Charlotte J. (2009). *Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents: Psychology, Law, and Policy*. *American Psychologist*, 64: 727-736.
- Patterson, Charlotte J. and Lisa V. Freil. 2000. "Sexual Orientation and Fertility." In *Infertility in the Modern World: Biosocial Perspectives*, edited by G. Bentley and N. Mascie-Taylor. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.
- Stacey, Judith and Timothy Biblarz. (April 2001). (How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter? *American Sociological Review*, 66:159-183. <http://www.asanet.org/pubs/stacey.pdf>
- Stacey, Judith. (2003). "Gay and Lesbian Families: Queer Like Us" in Mason, Skolink, and Sugarman, Eds. *All Our Families: New Policies for a New Century*. Oxford University Press.
- Why it's Wrong: The Social Science Case, A Conversation with Professor Judith Stacey*. In *Too High A Price: The Case Against Restricting Gay Parenting* (See above link)

Books about LGBT Families and Parenting:

- Aizley, Harlyn. (2006). *Confessions of the Other Mother: Nonbiological Lesbian Moms Tell All*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Andrews, Nancy (1994). *Family: A Portrait of Gay and Lesbian America*. San Francisco: Harper Collins.
- Bernstein, Mary (2001). *Queer Families, Queer Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Boenke, Mary, Ed. (1999). *Trans Forming Families: Real Stories about Transgendered Loved One*. New Castle: Oak Knoll Press.
- Carrington, Christopher (1999). *No Place Like Home: Relationships and Family Life among Lesbians and Gay Men*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Drucker, Jane and Howard Schulweis (2001). *Lesbian and Gay Families Speak Out: Understanding the Joys and Challenges of Diverse Family Life*. Boulder, CO: Perseus Publishing.
- Galluccio, Jon (2001). *An American Family*. New York: St. Martins Press.
- Garner, Abigail (2004). *Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Gillespie, Peggy, Ed.(1999) *Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Parents and Their Families*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press.
- Goldberg, Abbie E. (2010). *Lesbian and Gay Parents and Their Children: Research on the Family Life Cycle*. American Psychological Association.
- Green, Jesse (1998). *The Velveteen Father: An Unexpected Journey to Parenthood*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Herrera, Diana. (1998). *Women in Love: Portraits of Lesbian Mothers & Their Families*. Bulfinch Press.
- Howey, Noelle and Ellen Samuels, Eds.(2000). *Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents*. New York: St. Martins Press.
- Lehr, Valerie (1999). *Queer Family Values: Debunking the Myth of the Nuclear Family (Queer Politics, Queer Theories)*. Philadelphia: Temple Press University.
- Moraga, Cherie (1997). *Waiting in the Wings: Portrait of a Queer Motherhood*. Ann Arbor: Firebrand Books.
- Patterson, Charlotte J. and Anthony R. D'Augelli. (1998). *Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities in Families: Psychological Perspectives*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Polikoff, Nancy D. (2009). *Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage: Valuing All Families under the Law*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Powell, Brian, Catherine Bolzendahl, Claudia Geist, and Lala Carr Steelman. (2010). *Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans' Definitions of Family*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Richman, Kimberly D. (2009). *Courting Change: Queer Parents, Judges, and the Transformation of American Family Law*. New York: New York University Press.
- Savage, Dan (2000). *The Kid: What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant: An Adoption Story*. New York: Plume.
- Snow, Judith E. (2004). *How It Feels to Have a Gay or Lesbian Parent: A Book by Kids for Kids of All Ages*. New York: Routledge.
- Stacey, Judith (1990). *Brave New Families: Stories of Domestic Upheaval in Late-Twentieth-Century America*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Strah, David. (2004). *Gay Dads: A Celebration of Fatherhood*. New York: Penguin.
- Sullivan, Richard T., Ed. (1999). *Queer Families, Common Agendas: Gay People, Lesbians, and Family Values*. San Francisco: Haworth Press Inc.
- Weston, Kath (1997). *Families We Choose*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Websites:

In addition to the websites of the organizations mentioned above there are other sites on the internet that provide much important information and resources and are a place for members of LGBT families to connect.

FamiliesLikeMine.com a web site dedicated to decreasing isolation for people who have parents who are LGBT, and bringing voice to the experiences of these families. This site was created by Abigail Garner, a lifetime advocate for LGBT families because she comes from one herself.

Families Like Ours – Online resource for families at various stages in the adoption process (<http://www.familieslikeours.org/>)

Family Diversity Projects – Art exhibits that depict various families (i.e. multiracial, LGBT families, religion and LGBT individuals, and trans individuals) (<http://familydiv.org/>)
Love Makes A Family <http://www.lovemakesafamily.org/>

Kids of Trans Resource Guide – A resource for children who have trans parents that was compiled by COLAGE (<http://www.colage.org/resources/kot/>)

ProudParenting.com serves as an online portal for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents and their families worldwide.

R Family Vacations – An LGBT friendly travel company that helps families find the ideal vacation spot.
(<http://www.rfamilyvacations.com/>)

The Williams Institute – Research institute at UCLA that looks at sexual orientation law and public policy. Current Census stat on LGBT families is available at (<http://www3.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/home.html>)

TransFamily – A support group for transgender families in Ohio with resources on the local and national level
(<http://www.transfamily.org/>)

TransParentcy – A website geared towards transgender parents and children (<http://www.transparentcy.org>)

Videos:

- *Both of My Moms' Names Are Judy: Children of Lesbians and Gays Speak Out*
- *Daddy & Pappa*
- *In My Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT Parents*
- *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School*
- *Living Adoption: Gay Parents Speak Out*
- *No Dumb Questions*
- *Our House: A very real documentary about kids of gay and lesbian parents.*
- *That's a Family*

Educational curricula about diverse families:

Framing the Family Tree: How Teachers Can Be Sensitive to Student's Family Situations
(<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/socialresponsibility/articles/documents/RethinkingSchoolsKidsStuffSR.pdf>)

I Think I Might Have A GLBT Family in My Class. Now What Do I Do?
(http://equitydiversity.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/glb_family_brochure.pdf)

Making Room in the Circle: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Families in Early Childhood Settings
Curriculum designed to educated children about LGBT families (<http://www.parentservices.org/lgbt.php>)

The Pride Education Network (<http://www.pridenet.ca>)

K-12 resources for educators, counselors and administrators to aid in the support of, and education about, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and families. Resources include:

Challenging Homophobia in Schools: A K-12 Resource (<http://www.galebc.org/handbook.htm>)

Fiction & Non-Fiction Titles for K-12 (<http://www.galebc.org/books.pdf>)

Opening Doors: Education Issues for LGBT Parents, By the Educational Advocacy Committee of Family Equality Council (Formerly the Family Pride Coalition) (<http://www.familypride.org/publications/openingdoors.pdf>)

Opening More Doors: Creating Policy Change to Include Our Families, By the Family Equality Council (Formerly the Family Pride Coalition) (<http://www.familypride.org/publications/openingmoredoors.pdf>)

Out of the Box Training Kit – Belonging: Including Children of Gay and Lesbian Parents – and All Children – in Your Program
(http://www.childcareexchange.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=4400405)

Talking to Children About Our Families, By Margie Brickley and Aimee Gelnow for the Family Equality Council
(<http://www.familyequality.org/pdf/talkingtochildren.pdf>)