

# **Annotated Bibliography for Children and Parents of Third Party Reproduction\***

**Part One: Donor Conception Children's Books**

**Part Two: Donor Conception Books for Parents**

**Part Three: Gay/Lesbian/Single Parent Children's Books**

**Part Four: Gay/Lesbian/Single Parenting Books**

Compiled by the Education Committee, Spring 2007  
Kim Kluger-Bell, MFT, Chair  
Jana Frances Fisher, Ph.D.  
Jennifer Adams, Ph.D.  
Mental Health Professional Group  
American Society for Reproduction Medicine  
(Based on the Children's Bibliography  
compiled by Elaine Gordon, Phd, and Ellen Speyer, MFT)

\*For excellent lists of books on adoption for parents and children see  
[www.pactadopt.org/favoritebooks/](http://www.pactadopt.org/favoritebooks/).

## **Part One: DONOR CONCEPTION *CHILDREN'S BOOKS***

Appleton, Tim. (2005) **MY BEGINNINGS : A VERY SPECIAL STORY**  
Published by IFC Resource Center, U.K. Available through  
[www.mybeginnings.org](http://www.mybeginnings.org).

A book for younger children that can be put together in different ways to cover IVF, IVF with ICSI, IVF with Donor Sperm, IVF with Donor Egg, donor insemination, donor embryos and frozen embryo transfers. Tells the story of a couple who lead unfulfilled lives before the birth of their child through donor conception. The latest edition of the book has a CD with more information for older children, including "I'm a Little Frostie" which refers to frozen embryos. Recommended by Donor Conception Network, especially for children created by embryo donation.

Bourne, Kate. (2002) **SOMETIMES IT TAKES THREE TO MAKE A BABY (Explaining Egg Donor Conception to Young Children)** Melbourne IVF, Victoria, Australia. Available through [www.mivf.com.au](http://www.mivf.com.au). Email [wrayjone@watrose.com](mailto:wrayjone@watrose.com) for availability.

Written for 3-9 year olds. There are three sections to the book, the first is a story about donor conception to be read to the child; the second is a "My Very Own Book about Me" which can be used to fill in the child's personal conception story; and the third section provides advice and reassurance for parents on how to tell children their stories and answer their questions. Highly Recommended by Donor Conception Network in the U.K.

Celcer, Irene. (2007) **HOPE AND WILL HAVE A BABY** United States, Graphite Press. Available [www.hopeandwill.net](http://www.hopeandwill.net).  
Ages 3-7. Four-book collection includes The Gift of Egg Donation, The Gift of Embryo Donation, The Gift of Sperm Donation, and The Gift of Surrogacy. The story begins with the questions of a little boy who learns of his parent's quest to have a child and his unique conception. One of the newest books published.

Gordon, Elaine. (1992) **MOMMY, DID I GROW IN YOUR TUMMY? WHERE SOME BABIES COME FROM** California: EM Greenburg Press. Available through amazon.com and through [www.elainegordon.com](http://www.elainegordon.com).  
Ages 4-12. Very well illustrated and sensitively written, this is one of the first books published to assist parents in talking with their kids about their unique origins--including IVF, egg and sperm donation, surrogacy and adoption. Recommended by Donor Conception Network.

Grimes, Janice. (2004) **BEFORE YOU WERE BORN; OUR WISH FOR A CHILD** Published in the US by X,Y and me. Available through [www.xyandme.com](http://www.xyandme.com).  
There are 16 versions of these story books, which can be used for children of two parent families conceived through IVF, Donor Insemination, IVF with Donor Sperm, Egg Donation, Frozen Embryo Transfer, Embryo Donation, Traditional Surrogacy, Gestational Carrier.

Grimes, Janice. (2005) **BEFORE YOU WERE BORN: MY WISH FOR A CHILD** Available through [www.xyandme.com](http://www.xyandme.com)  
These story books are good for children in single parent families and include the following: Donor Insemination, IVF with Donor Sperm, Donor Egg/Donor Sperm, or Donor Embryo, and Single dad—traditional surrogate, single dad—donor egg and gestational carrier.

Javier, Carmen Martinez. (2005) **AN ITSY BITSY GIFT OF LIFE; AN EGG DONOR STORY** Available through amazon.com  
Ages 9-12. Endearing story book with optional toy rabbit pouch will delight younger children. Colorful illustrations, charming story.

Leicester, Mal. (2001) **MAKING MIRACLES** Published by Acebabes. Available through [AceBabes.com](http://AceBabes.com).  
Story book for young children. Friendship between a frog and a young boy refers to assisted conception and leaves it to parents to fill in the details.

Margolis, Amy. (2006) **Butterflies and Magical Wings** U.S.: Amy Margolis Publishing. Available through amazon.com.

Ages 4-8. Written by the mother of two children conceived through donor egg, this story focuses on a butterfly couple who receive help another butterfly with magical spots. Very colorfully illustrated.

Nadel, Carolina. (2006) **MOMMY WAS YOUR TUMMY BIG?** U.S. Carolina Nadel. Available through amazon.com.

Lovely storybook for younger children. A mother elephant explains the story of her child's conception through donor egg and IVF. Nice illustrations and simple language will appeal to children 3-5 years and possibly older.

Schaffer, Patricia. (1988) **HOW BABIES AND FAMILIES ARE MADE: THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY** Berkeley, CA. Sarah Tabor Books. Available through amazon.com

Sensitively and simply addresses the differences between male and female bodies and their reproductive organs and how babies are conceived. Donor insemination and IVF are referred to as different ways of conceiving children but donor egg, and donor embryo are not mentioned. Illustrations not spectacular. Highly recommended by Donor Conception Network.

Infertility Research Trust. (1992) **MY STORY** Available through [www.donor-conception-network.com](http://www.donor-conception-network.com).

Written for children up to age 6 who were conceived through donor insemination used by heterosexual couples. Very simple language. Engaging illustrations.

Donor Conception Network. (2002) **OUR STORY** Published by Donor Conception Network. Available through [www.donor-conception-network.com](http://www.donor-conception-network.com).

Three versions of the book include children who were conceived by sperm donation, children conceived through sperm donation to single parent families, children conceived through sperm donation into lesbian families.

## **PART TWO: DONOR CONCEPTION BOOKS *FOR PARENTS***

Bernstein, Anne (1994) **Flight of the Stork: What Children Think (And When) About Sex and Family Building** 287 p. Indianapolis: Perspectives Press.

Available through amazon.com or [www.perspectivespress.com](http://www.perspectivespress.com).

Enlightening interviews with children aged 3-12 provides insight into the minds of young children and how their concepts and questions about sex and reproduction change over time. This updated version includes references to donor insemination, assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy. Valuable resource for parents in communicating with their children about the special circumstances of their origins.

Cooper, S. and Glazer, E. (1999) **CHOOSING ASSISTED REPRODUCTION: SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS** Indianapolis: Perspectives Press. 400p. Available on line through booksellers or through [www.perspectivespress.com](http://www.perspectivespress.com).

Comprehensive overview of IVF, GIFT, ZIFT, ICSI, ovum donation, sperm donation, surrogacy, gestational care, and embryo donation which helps fertility patients think through the psychological, social and ethical implications of these procedures. Suggestions on how and when to tell children about their origins is included.

Daniels, Ken. **BUILDING A FAMILY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF DONOR INSEMINATION**

Donor Conception Network. **TELLING AND TALKING**

Ehrensaft, Diane. (2005) **MOMMIES, DADDIES, DONORS, SURROGATES: ANSWERING TOUCH QUESTIONS AND BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES**

Guilford Press. 305p. Highly comprehensive book on the in's and outs of the kinds of issues faced by families of third party reproductive technology. Excellent sections on how, when, and what to tell your children. Some fertility patients have been overwhelmed by the scope of the book.

Friedman, J.S. (1996) **BUILDING YOUR FAMILY THROUGH EGG DONATION –WHAT YOU WILL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS,**

**BONDING, AND DISCLOSURE ISSUES** Kentucky: Jolance Press. This book is available through the author.

Glazer, Ellen. (2005) **HAVING YOUR BABY THROUGH EGG DONATION** Indianapolis: Perspectives Press. 384p. Available on line through amazon or [www.perspectivespress.com](http://www.perspectivespress.com).

The most thorough exploration of the medical, ethical, and psychological aspects of egg donation currently in print, including sections on how, when, and who to tell.

Glazer, Ellen. (1998) **THE LONG AWAITED STORK: A GUIDE TO PARENTING AFTER INFERTILITY** Jossey Bass Press. 349p. Available through booksellers on line.

One of a kind resources for parenting after infertility including sections on what (and when) to tell your child about their conception and/or birth, who else to tell, and how to handle lingering feelings of loss. Appropriate for parents of adopted children; sperm donor, egg donor parents; parents who used surrogates; parents of special needs kids; and parents raising children conceived in different ways.

Lorbach, Caroline. (2003) **EXPERIENCES OF DONOR CONCEPTION; PARENTS, OFFSPRING, AND DONORS THROUGH THE YEARS** New Zealand: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 208 p. Available through amazon.com. Fascinating exploration of using donor conception (egg donation, sperm donation, embryo donation), which draws heavily on first hand experiences of parents, offspring and donors and includes the author's own family story. Special emphasis on how and when to tell children and "real life" examples of family's experiences. Strongly supportive of open-ness with children.

Pettle, S. and J. Burns. **CHOOSING TO BE OPEN: THE EXPERIENCES OF PARENTS** Donor Conception Network, U.K. Available through [www.donor-conception-network.org](http://www.donor-conception-network.org).

Short book consisting of conversations with 52 parents who participated in group discussions to talk about their experiences being open about donor conception. Available through [www.donor-conception-network.org](http://www.donor-conception-network.org).

## **PART Three: GAY/LESBIAN/SINGLE-PARENT CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

Baxter, Nicola. (2003) **OUR STORY** Donor Conception Network. Available through [www.dcnetwork.org](http://www.dcnetwork.org) and [www.familyhelper.net/iy/in.html](http://www.familyhelper.net/iy/in.html). An excellent guide to donor insemination for young children, with one version about having lesbian parents (ages 3-6)

Day, Ann Frances. (2000) **LESBIAN AND GAY VOICES: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND GUIDE TO LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS**. Available through

Considine, Kaitlyn. (2005) **EMMA AND MEESHA MY BOY: A TWO MOM STORY**. Available through [twomombooks.com](http://twomombooks.com). Ages 3-6. Two moms teach their daughter to be nice to her cat. The publisher's website, <http://www.twolives.com>, is a resource center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents and their children. They have an extensive offering of books for children and adults as well.

de Haan, Linda. **KING AND KING**  
Ages 3-6. When the queen decrees that it's time for the prince to marry, princesses come from far and wide hoping to catch his eye. But the one who actually charms the prince is the brother of one of the princesses, and guess what? They live happily ever after!

Elwin, Rosamund & Palse, Michele. (1990) **ASHA'S MUMS**. Women's Press, Ontario, Canada.  
Ages 6 and up. Thoughtful story showing how a young girl and her two moms deal positively with homophobia at school and introduce their family to her teacher and classmates.

Garden, Nancy. **HOLLY'S SECRET**

.Ages 8-12. When Holly's family moves to a new town, she changes her name and lies about her parents (two moms), hoping that she'll fit in. She learns that her true friends will stand by her. The dialogue between Holly and her family is very loving and realistic.

Gottlieb, Andrew. **SONS TALK ABOUT THEIR GAY FATHERS: LIFE CURVES**  
Haworth Gay and Lesbian Studies.

Greenberg, Keith. (1996) **ZACK'S STORY: GROWING UP WITH SAME-SEX PARENTS**. Lerner Publications.

Written for pre-teens. Eleven-year-old Zack describes life with his two moms in this photo-essay.

Howey, Noelle & Samuels, E. (Eds.) (2000). **OUT OF THE ORDINARY: ESSAYS ON GROWING UP WITH GAY, LESBIAN, AND TRANSGENDER PARENTS** Stonewall Inn Editions. Available through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Collection of essays by 20 contributors who have a queer mom or dad (or two). The lack of sophistication in these essays is both the book's weakness and its strength, for these accounts, many by first-time writers, sometimes unintentionally show with dramatic clarity how at early ages the authors sensed and shouldered their parents' struggles. These narrators don't sound like products of the current, proud gay-parenting boom; many are the children of parents who struggled to leave straight lives (and marriages) and to establish new identities later in life.

Newman, Leslea & Souza, Diane. (2000) **HEATHER HAS TWO MOMMIES** Alyson Publications. Available through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Ages 2-6. Mama Kate, Mama Jane, and Heather became a family using donor insemination. The was the first book published by Alyson Wonderland which has a number of books for and about children of lesbian and gay parents. 2000 is the updated edition.

Newman, Leslea. (1991) **GLORIA GOES TO GAY PRIDE** Alyson Publications. Gloria and her two mothers join in a Gay Pride parade.

Newman, Leslea. **FELICIA'S FAVORITE STORY**

At bedtime Felicia wants to hear her favorite story, of how she was adopted by Mama Linda and Mama Nessa. And so Felicia's parents tell her how they flew off in a big silver airplane to meet her and how they loved her from the very first moment they saw her.

Snow, Judith. **HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE A GAY OR LESBIAN PARENT: A BOOK BY KIDS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES**

Valentine, Johnny. (2004) **ONE DAD, TWO DADS, BROWN DAD, BLUE DADS** Two children-one with blue dads, one from a more traditional family-compare notes in this light hearted book about parents who are different. In the end, they discover that blue dads are not really different from others dads. Except in one way.

Valentine, Johnny. **THE DUKE WHO OUTLAWED JELLY BEANS**

This is a collection of five original fairy tales: The Frog Prince, The Eagle Rider, the Dragon Sense, The Ogre's Boots and The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans. Embedded within the stories are a cast of gay and lesbian characters.

Willhoite, Michael. (1991) **DADDY'S ROOMMATE**

Both the story and pictures are warm and positive as they show the boy Nick with the two partners, depicting loving family relationships.

## **PART FOUR: GAY/LESBIAN/SINGLE PARENTING BOOKS**

Alpert, Harriet. (Ed.) (1988) **WE ARE EVERYWHERE: WRITINGS BY AND ABOUT LESBIAN PARENTS** The Crossing Press. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Barret, Robert. L. & Robinson, Bryan. E. (1991) **GAY FATHERS: ENCOURAGING THE HEARTS OF GAY DADS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Jossey-Bass Books. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Utilizing rich case examples, the authors examine the many faces and complexities of gay fatherhood, using narratives reported by gay fathers and their children.

Benkov, Laura. (1995) **REINVENTING THE FAMILY: LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS** Crown Trade Paperbacks. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Examines many aspects of gay and lesbian parenting. Topics include experiences of gays and lesbian parents "coming out" of heterosexual marriages; legal developments in adoptions, foster care, and custody battles; artificial insemination; society's view of parenting roles; children raised by gay and lesbian parents; and the influence of homophobia. The author's research is combined with illustrative case studies.

Brill, Stephanie. (2001) **THE QUEER PARENT'S PRIMER: A LESBIAN AND GAY FAMILIES' GUIDE TO NAVIGATING THROUGH A STRAIGHT WORLD**

New Harbinger Publications. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Through examples and interactive exercises, a proactive, practical approach for dealing with the challenges of defining, protecting, and celebrating queer families is offered. Topics include creating a healthy family, coming out, finding culturally sensitive childcare and schools, and making decisions about spirituality and family celebrations. Also addressed are single parenting, breaking up, and the legal aspects of protecting GLB families.

Brill, Stephanie & Sacks, Preston. (2006) **THE NEW ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LESBIAN CONCEPTION, PREGNANCY, AND BIRTH** Alyson Publications.

Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Covers the latest information in insemination and fertility technology and is a thorough, practical guide to the physical and emotional stages of pre-conception, pregnancy and delivery for lesbian women and their partners.

Curry, Hayden, Hertz, Frederick & Doskow, Emily. (2007) **LEGAL GUIDE FOR LESBIAN & GAY COUPLES** Nolo Press. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Helps LGBT couples take charge of their legal needs and take steps to define and protect their relationships and children. Addresses same-sex marriage and marriage-like relationships, property ownership, health care directives, estate planning, and parentage questions. With CD containing useful forms.

American Psychological Association. (2005) Committee on lesbian, gay & bisexual concerns, committee on children, youth & families, and committee on women in psychology **LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTING**. Available through the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC. This publication is an excellent resource for lesbian and gay parents that includes up-to-date summary of research findings, APA amicus briefs and other resources.

Clunis, D. Merilee & Green, G. Dorsey. (2003) **THE LESBIAN PARENTING BOOK: A GUIDE TO CREATING FAMILIES AND RAISING CHILDREN** Seal Press. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Covers the “how-tos” of lesbian-headed households discussing many germane topics from conception to adoption, addressing homophobia in age-appropriate ways and dealing with a myriad of other societal and school issues.

Gillespie, Peggy, Weston, Kath, Kaeser, Gigi & Martin, April. (1999) **LOVE MAKES A FAMILY: PORTRAITS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PARENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES** University of Massachusetts Press. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). A collection of informal family portraits and interviews with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents and their children grew out of a photo exhibit created by photographer Kaeser. Myriad family configurations are presented: gay and lesbian couples, divorced lesbians coparenting, single parents, transgendered parents, and stepparents and their children. From text accompanying the photographs, we learn who these people consider family and why as they speak about their feelings and experiences as part of an LGBT family. The interviews reveal many of the same joys and struggles as found in other families in addition to the challenges of being an LGBT family in a predominantly heterosexual world.

Johnson, Suzanne. **FOR LESBIAN PARENTS: YOUR GUIDE TO HELPING YOUR FAMILY GROW UP HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND PROUD**

Lev, Arlene Istar. (2004) **THE COMPLETE LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTING GUIDE** Berkley Trade Paperback.

Martin, April. (1993) **THE LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTING HANDBOOK: CREATING AND RAISING OUR FAMILIES** Harper Perennial.  
An affirming guide for lesbian and gay families.

Mattes, J. (1997) **SINGLE MOTHERS BY CHOICE: A GUIDE FOR SINGLE WOMEN WHO ARE CONSIDERING OR HAVE CHOSEN MOTHERHOOD** Three Rivers Press.

Mohler, Marie & Frazer, Lacy. (2002) **A DONOR INSEMINATION GUIDE: WRITTEN BY AND FOR LESBIAN WOMEN** Harrington Park Press. These parents of two children conceived through donor insemination share their experiences and offer advice.

Pepper, Rachel. (2005) **THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO PREGNANCY FOR LESBIANS: HOW TO STAY SANE AND CARE FOR YOURSELF FROM PRECONCEPTION THROUGH BIRTH** Cleis Press. Available through  
A humorous and insightful guide written by a lesbian mother who herself used donor sperm to conceive.

Pies, Cheri. (1988) **CONSIDERING PARENTHOOD** Spinsters Ink. Available through  
A slightly dated yet user-friendly book that considers many dimensions of lesbian family building,

Pollack, Sandra & Vaughn, Jeanne (Eds.) (1987) **POLITICS OF THE HEART: A LESBIAN PARENTING ANTHOLOGY** Firebrand Books.

Wells, Jess. (ed.) (1997). **LESBIANS RAISING SONS** Alyson Books. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Lesbians Raising Sons is an anthology of first person writings examining the ideas of manhood, of motherhood, of lesbians raising male children in yesterday's and today's world. Divided into three segments, the book takes an unflinching and entirely new look at mothering: "New Lessons" examines the way in which sons of lesbians grow up to be different men; "Making a Family" looks at family constructs and "Facing Losses" reveals the heart-breaking reality that many women have had to confront when their families were threatened by homophobic courts and traditions.

Weston, Kath (1991). **FAMILIES WE CHOOSE: LESBIANS, GAYS, KINSHIP** Columbia University Press. Available through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

In recent decades gay men and lesbians have increasingly portrayed themselves as people who seek not only to maintain ties with blood and adoptive relatives but also to establish families of their own. In *Families We Choose*, Kath Weston draws upon fieldwork and interviews to explore the ways gay men and lesbians are constructing their own notions of kinship by drawing on the symbolism of love, friendship, and biology. She presents interviewees' stories of coming out and of their subsequent relations with straight families. She also discusses changes in gay communities that have helped shape contemporary discourse about the gay family. Finally, she addresses the political implications of chosen families.

