Creating Picture Books that Feature Children Parented by Same-Sex Partners

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Abstract
The research question addressed in this project is, how can an author create a picture book for children featuring families parented by same-sex partners that provides windows into and mirrors of the lives of those families? This capstone captures the journey of one teacher as she creates a picture book for children that is culturally responsive to the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered (LGBT) community. It presents research on the effects absent narratives have on marginalized populations and how schools respond to children from LGBT families, as well as the different typologies of picture books, guidelines for developmental appropriateness, and advice on the literary craft of creating a picture book. Fischler found that writing about an underrepresented group for children requires more than literary skills and techniques. Issues of bias, lexicon, and authenticity all influence how the characters are portrayed and the narrative written.

Keywords
Multicultural Education, Social Justice, Teachers/Teaching, Cultural Responsiveness

Recommended Citation

We conclude that children's ability to learn and transfer content from picture books can be disrupted by some book features and research should directly examine the interaction between children's developing abilities and book characteristics on children's learning. On the bookshelf of a pre-reader, one may find storybooks that take children to magical worlds with fantastical characters, to faraway lands with unique animals and customs, or keep them close to home with tales about backyard bullies or trips to the dentist. Research shows that children raised by same-sex parents are as well-adjusted as children raised in traditional heterosexual-parented families. But what about later in adulthood? This article explores the lived experiences of the adult children of same-sex parents, drawing on interviews with 8 Australian adults who had at least one parent who identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Same-
Sex Parenting  For as long as people have understood themselves as gay, gay people have parented their children. In the past, however, homosexual parents often shielded themselves and their children from scrutiny by publicly concealing their sexual orientation. By the end of the twentieth century, an estimated six to ten million gay and lesbian parents in the United States were raising six to fourteen million children, often in openly recognized gay families. Same-Sex Parenting. For as long as people have understood themselves as gay, gay people have parented their children. In the past, however, homosexual parents often shielded themselves and their children from scrutiny by publicly concealing their sexual orientation. "Individuals with same-sex attraction are beloved children of God and must have their personal human rights and civil rights recognized and protected by law," Tobin said. "However, the legalization of their civil unions, which seek to simulate holy matrimony, is not admissible." Newsletter. A selection of our best stories daily based on your reading preferences. Sign up for Insider Select. Something is loading. Email address. By clicking 'Sign up', you agree to receive marketing emails from Business Insider as well as other partner offers and accept our Terms of Service and Same-sex parents were identified using the procedure described by Wainright et al. [13] as corrected by Sullins [6]. To assure accurate identification of same-sex partners, sex of partner was independently identified by both mother and respondent. Differential social stigma or sensitivity to stigma faced by same-sex families has often been cited as an impediment to psychosocial development in children with same-sex parents, including adult children raised by lesbians [35, 36]. Ninety percent of the same-sex parented children reported parental abuse at Wave III, dropping only to 85% at Wave IV.