LGBTQ Friendly Children’s Books

*The Harvey Milk Story* by Kari Krakow (2002)
Recounts the story of gay rights activist Harvey Milk, the first gay person elected to any office in the United States and discusses how his actions changed the views of many Americans.

*It's Okay To Be Different* by Todd Parr (2009)
This book cleverly delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format. The book features the bold, bright colors and silly scenes that made Todd a premiere voice for emotional discussions in children's literature.

*King & King* by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland (2003)
The Crown Kitty and friends cordially invite you to celebrate a royal wedding.

*Daddy, Pappa, and Me* by Lesléa Newman (2008)
Rhythmic text and illustrations with universal appeal show a toddler spending the day with their daddies. From hide-and-seek to dress-up, then bath time and a kiss goodnight, there's no limit to what a loving family can do together.

*Heather Has Two Mommies* by Leslea Newman (2016)
Heather’s favorite number is two. She has two arms, two legs, two pets—and two mommies. When Heather goes to school for the first time, someone asks her about her daddy, but Heather doesn’t have a daddy. Then something interesting happens. When Heather and her classmates all draw pictures of their families, not one drawing is the same.
Books for Parents of Queer Kids

*Passages of Pride: Lesbian and Gay Youth Come of Age* by Kurt Chandler (1995)
Journalist Kurt Chandler profiles six Minneapolis/St. Paul teenagers, who speak eloquently of the challenges of realizing they were different at an early age, of having to hide, of depression and suicide attempts, and, ultimately, of coming out and making their separate peace at home, at school, and on their own.

*Unlived Affections* by George Shannon (1989)
Although Willie, 17, has never stopped asking questions about his parents, he has received very few satisfactory answers. He never knew his father, and little remains to document his mother's existence. His grandmother refuses to discuss details about the family, so it is only after her death that Willie discovers the collection of old letters that provides him with information about the past. Through letters his mother received from his father, Willie finds out about his own conception, his father's realization of his homosexuality and the circumstances of his parents' divorce. Willie is both disturbed and intrigued by the shocking story that unfolds, and he begins to understand his parents' complicated relationship as he shares their most intimate moments of love, grief, anger and compassion. In this framework, Shannon explores how two young men of different generations struggle to find their identities.

*Between Mom and Jo* by Julie Anne Peters (2006)
Nick has a three-legged dog named Lucky, some pet fish, and two moms who think he's the greatest kid ever. And he happens to think he has the greatest Moms ever, but everything changes when his birth mom and her wife, Jo, start to have marital problems. Suddenly, Nick is in the middle, and instead of having two Moms to turn to for advice, he has no one.

Nick's emotional struggle to redefine his relationships with his parents will remind readers that a family's love can survive even the most difficult times.

*First Spring Grass Fire* by Rae Spoon (2012)
Transgender indie electronica singer-songwriter Rae Spoon has six albums to their credit, including 2012’s *I Can’t Keep All of Our Secrets*. This first book by Rae (who uses “they” as a pronoun) is a candid, powerful story about a young person growing up queer in a strict Pentecostal family in rural Canada.

The narrator attends church events and Billy Graham rallies faithfully with their family before discovering the music that becomes their salvation and means of escape. As their father's schizophrenia causes their parents' marriage to unravel, the narrator finds solace and safety in the company of their siblings, in their nascent feelings for a girl at school, and in their growing awareness that they are not the person their parents think they are.
Books For Queer Teens

Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen by Jazz Jennings (2017)

Jennings is one of the youngest and most prominent voices in the national discussion about gender identity. At the age of five, Jazz transitioned to life as a girl, with the support of her parents. A year later, her parents allowed her to share her incredible journey in her first Barbara Walters interview, aired at a time when the public was much less knowledgeable or accepting of the transgender community.

Normal Miguel by Erik Orrantia (2010)

Miguel Hernandez is a teacher who has left Mexico City to complete a one year student internship in the rural hills of Puebla. He came to the school intending to focus on his teaching and his students but quickly learns that it is impossible to keep his private and professional lives separate—particularly as his experience turns into a voyage of self-discovery.

Out & Allied by Cathy Plourde (2011)

Out & Allied Anthology (Volume 1) - The Out & Allied Project, focuses on youth-written and performed pieces on queer and allied issues. Add Verb Productions has published The Out & Allied Anthology which includes short plays, spoken word, and poetry that address issues of cultivating allies among queer and questioning youth. Additionally, find a youth activism handbook with production guidance and resources.

Keeping You A Secret (2005) by Julie Anne Peters

With a steady boyfriend, the position of Student Council President, and a chance to go to an Ivy League college, high school life is just fine for Holland Jaeger. At least, it seems to be. But when Cece Goddard comes to school, everything changes. Cece and Holland have undeniable feelings for each other, but how will others react to their developing relationship?

Rainbow Revolutionaries by Sarah Prager (2020)

Rainbow Revolutionaries brings to life the vibrant histories of fifty pioneering LGBTQ+ people from around the world. Through Sarah Prager’s (Queer, There, and Everywhere) short, engaging bios, and Sarah Papworth’s bold, dynamic art, readers can delve into the lives of Wen of Han, a Chinese emperor who loved his boyfriend as much as his people, Martine Rothblatt, a trans woman who’s helping engineer the robots of tomorrow, and so many more!

*June 2021