

Adoption Books for Families and Schools.



The following books are a collection of books which have been recommended by various charities and websites. The descriptions have been taken from Amazon book descriptions and are not a reflection of VSK's opinion of the book.

The books have been ordered by the recommended reading age.

We would always recommend that you take time to research these books for yourselves before you purchase them.

If you from a school or education setting, please always discuss the use of these texts with parents and guardians prior to any work with the children.

Please also refer to our book list for Supporting Family Diversity.

If you know of any book that is not mentioned on this list, that you would recommend, please do let us know.

Book Title	Author	Subject	School/Parent/Both	Description	Age Range
I love Blue Kangaroo	Emma Chicherster Clark	Attachment	Both	Every night Blue Kangaroo falls fast asleep, cuddled in Lily's arms. But as new toy animals start arriving, Blue Kangaroo worries that there just isn't enough room for him anymore. When he goes missing, Lily looks everywhere for him and it turns out NONE of the other toys mean as much to her as her first and favourite Blue Kangaroo.	0-5 year olds
The Nanny's Goat's Kid	Jeanne Willis & Tony Ross	Adoption	Both	There was once a Nanny Goat who wanted kids more than anything in the world, but she couldn't have any of her own. Adopting seems like the perfect solution, but the kid she adopts is different to the others - in fact, he's a tiger cub! But the Nanny Goat doesn't care. When her mistrustful sisters kick her kid out of the herd, she resolutely stands by him, and her trust in him is repaid when he saves not just her but also his cousins from becoming a hungry tiger's dinner!	0-5 year olds

A mother for Choco	Keiko Kasza	Adoption	Parent	<p>Family is about love no matter how different parents and children may be, adopted or not. Choco wishes he had a mother, but who could she be? He sets off to find her, asking all kinds of animals, but he doesn't meet anyone who looks just like him. He doesn't even think of asking Mrs. Bear if she's his mother-but then she starts to do just the things a mommy might do. And when she brings him home, he meets her other children-a piglet, a hippo, and an alligator-and learns that families can come in all shapes and sizes and still fit together.</p> <p>Keiko Kasza's twist on the Are you my mother? theme has become one of the most highly recommended stories about adoption for children.</p>	1-3 year olds
Love makes a family	Sophie Beer	Love	Both	Whether you have two mums, two dads, one parent, or one of each, there's one thing that makes a family a family... and that's LOVE.	1-5 year olds
And that's why she's my Mama	Tiarra Nazaio	Families	Both	<p>What is a Mama? A mama is someone who is always there for you. She makes you your favorite food, takes you to the park, and kisses your boo-boos better. Some mamas didn't hold you in their belly, but they will forever hold you in their hearts. Mamas come in all different shapes, colors, and ages, but they all have one thing in common. They love you! Enjoy the multiple characters in this children's story which explores the loving tasks of what makes a mama. Recommended ages 1-7</p>	1-7 year olds

What we'll build	Oliver Jeffers	Love	Parent	A father and daughter set about laying the foundations for their life together. Using their own special tools, they get to work; building memories to cherish, a home to keep them safe and love to keep them warm. From renowned, internationally bestselling picture-book creator and visual artist, Oliver Jeffers, comes this rare and enduring story about a parent's boundless love, life's endless opportunities and all we need to build a together future.	2+ years
Mama, do you love me?	Barbara M. Joosse	Love	Parent	This beloved story of a child testing the limits of her independence, and a mother who reassuringly proves that a parents love is unconditional and everlasting is a perfect first book for toddlers.	2-4 year olds
And Tango makes three	Justin Richardson	Families	Both	The heartwarming true story of two penguins who create a nontraditional family. At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo got the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own.	2-5 year olds
The Teazles' Baby Bunny	Susan Bagnell	Families	Parent	This children's book for adopters tells the story of the Teazle rabbits and their adoption of a baby bunny. The simple tale and clear, colourful pictures provide a gentle introduction to broaching the subject of adoption and will help any adopted child to recognise how special they are and how much they are wanted.	2-5 year olds
I wished for you		Families	Parent	A little Bear named Barley asks his adoptive mother questions about his adoption.	2-5 year olds

The huge bag of worries	Virginia Ironside	Anxieties	Both	<p>A reassuring picture book encouraging children to open up about their fears and anxieties to help manage their feelings.</p> <p>The perfect book to soothe worries during stressful times.</p> <p>Wherever Jenny goes, her worries follow her - in a big blue bag. They are with her all the time - at school, at home, when she is watching TV and even in the bathroom! Jenny decides they have to go, but who will help her get rid of them?</p> <p>A funny and reassuring look at dealing with worries and anxiety, to be used as a spring board into important conversations with your child.</p>	2-5 year olds
Guess how much I love you	Sam McBratney	Love	Both	<p>Sometimes, when you love someone very, very much, you want to find a way of describing how much you treasure them. But, as Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare discover, love is not always an easy thing to measure. The story of Little and Big Nutbrown Hares' efforts to express their love for each other has become a publishing phenomenon. This lovely board book edition is one that children will ask for time and again.</p>	2-5 year olds
The day we met you	Phoebe Koehler	Adoption	Parent	<p>A special picture book for ages 2-5, The Day We Met You explores a couple lovingly preparing their home for an adopted baby. Adopted children love to hear their homecoming stories over and over, and this is a perfect book to encourage such retellings.--School Library Journal. Full-color illustrations.</p>	2-5 year olds
I wished for you: an adoption story	Marianne Richmond	Adoption	Parent	<p>A little Bear named Barley asks his adoptive mother questions about his adoption.</p>	2-5 year olds

Peanut	David Lucas	Anxieties	Both	<p>Peanut is a very tiny monkey who's afraid of everything. When the wind blows, he thinks his tree is falling down; when the sun sets, he thinks the whole sky is on fire; and when everything goes dark, all Peanut can do is close his eyes and wait for The End. He's so busy waiting that when Beetle tries to squeeze past him, the pair of them fall from their branch. Luckily, Peanut's tail comes to the rescue and as they sit together to recover from their fright, a new day dawns. Watching the sunrise, Peanut realizes his new world isn't really frightening at all, and he and his new friend set out to explore their tree together.</p>	2-6 year olds
How are you feeling today Baby Bear?	Jane Evans	Feelings	Both	<p>Baby Bear lives in a home with the Big Bears, and loves to chase butterflies and make mud pies - they make Baby Bear's tummy fill with sunshine. Then, one night, Baby Bear hears a big storm downstairs in the house and in the morning, Baby Bear's tummy starts to feel grey and rainy. How will such a small bear cope with these big new feelings? This sensitive, charming storybook is written to help children who have lived with violence at home to begin to explore and name their feelings. Accompanied by notes for adults on how to use each page of the story to start conversations, it also features fun games and activities to help to understand and express difficult emotions. It will be a useful book for social workers, counsellors, domestic violence workers and all grown-ups working with children.</p>	2-6 year olds

<p>Kit kitten and the topsy-turvy feelings</p>	<p>Jane Evans</p>	<p>Feelings</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>Once upon a time there was a little kitten called Kit who lived with a grown-up cat called Kizz Cat. Kit Kitten couldn't understand why sometimes Kizz Cat seemed sad and faraway and others times was busy and rushing about. Kit Kitten was sometimes cold and confused in this topsy turvy world and needed help to find ways to tell others about the big, medium and small feelings which were stuck inside. Luckily for Kit, Kindly Cat came along. Many children live in homes where things are chaotic and parents or carers are distracted and emotionally unavailable to them. This storybook, designed for children aged 2 to 6, includes feelings based activities to build a child's emotional awareness and vocabulary. A helpful tool for use by parents, carers, social workers and other professionals to enable young children to begin to name and talk about their feelings.</p>	<p>2-6 year olds</p>
<p>All together now</p>	<p>Anita Jeram</p>	<p>Adoption</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>Mummy Rabbit has three little honeys - Bunny, Little Duckling and Miss Mouse. This story tells how they came together to form one sweet and very special family.</p>	<p>2-6 year olds</p>
<p>Gilbert the Great White Shark</p>	<p>Jane Clarke & Charles Fuge</p>	<p>Loss</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>From the time Gilbert the Great White Shark was a tiny pup, Raymond the Remora stuck to him like glue...'Then one day, Gilbert wakes up to discover that Raymond has gone. Mrs Munch does everything she can to help her little shark come to terms with his loss and – slowly but surely – Gilbert learns to smile a wobbly smile through his sadness. He knows that Raymond will always be in his heart and, when mum takes Gilbert to the wreck, a chance meeting helps him find happiness once more. Jane Clarke's heart-warming story, exquisitely illustrated by Charles Fuge, is funny and sad in equal measure. It will touch anyone who has experienced the pain of losing a friend or the joy of making a new one.</p>	<p>3+ years</p>

<p>Charley Chatty and the Wiggly Worry Worm</p>	<p>Sarah Naish & Rosie Jefferies</p>	<p>Insecurity</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>A story about insecurity and attention seeking. Charley Chatty likes to talk. Charley talks so much that her mouth gets dry but there's just so much to say!</p> <p>"Why is the pavement brown?" "I have got two shoes. Everyone has two shoes." "I can hear the radio. Who is on the radio? Why is there a button on the radio?"</p> <p>Sometimes, Charley's imagination takes over and she tells stories about things that didn't really happen. She doesn't mean to but she likes how it makes her feel important and the wiggly worry worm inside her belly goes away.</p> <p>Written by a mum who understands, and her daughter (who also liked to tell tales), this is a story for children functioning at age 3-10.</p>	<p>3-10 year olds</p>
<p>William Wobbly and the very bad day</p>	<p>Sarah Naish & Rosie Jefferies</p>	<p>School Transition</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>A story about when feelings get too big. William Wobbly is having a very bad day. He didn't want to go to school and when he got there things just got worse. The wobbly feeling got bigger and bigger and BIGGER until...</p> <p>Something happened to William Wobbly when he was very little which makes it hard for him to understand or control his feelings. Luckily, his new mum is here to help with his wibbly wobbly feelings.</p> <p>Written by a mum who understands, and her daughter (who used to have a lot of wobbly feelings), this is a story for children functioning at age 3-10 who struggle with sensory overload.</p>	<p>3-10 year olds</p>

The Paper Dolls	Debi Gliori	Loss	Both	<p>The Paper Dolls is a stunning, lyrical story of childhood, memory and the power of imagination from Julia Donaldson, the author of The Gruffalo, and award-winning illustrator Rebecca Cobb.</p> <p>A string of paper dolls go on a fantastical adventure through the house and out into the garden. They soon escape the clutches of the toy dinosaur and the snapping jaws of the oven-glove crocodile, but then a very real pair of scissors threatens . . .</p> <p>The Paper Dolls is a beautiful and evocative story from Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb, the bestselling creators of The Everywhere Bear.</p>	3-5 year olds
Penguin	Polly Dunbar	Anxieties	Both	<p>This is the story of Ben, who couldn't be more delighted to find a penguin friend inside his present. "Hello, Penguin!" he says. Penguin says nothing. Ben tickles Penguin, pulls his funniest face, puts on a happy hat, sings a silly song and does a dizzy dance ... but still Penguin says nothing. It isn't until a passing lion intervenes that Penguin finally speaks – and, when he does, Ben discovers that some things are worth the wait.</p>	3-5 year olds
I love you, Little Monster	Giles Andreaze & Jess Mikhail	Love	Parent	<p>An adorable, heart-felt picture book with an uplifting message about the special relationship between parent and child. Perfect for sharing with lovable little monsters everywhere, at bedtime or cuddle time, this tender story captures all the pride, joy, love and hope that every parent feels for their child. 'A heart-warming and joyful tale of parental love and a child's boundless energy and enthusiasm for life' Primary Times</p>	3-5 year olds

Who's in my family?	Robie Harris	Families	Both	Join Nellie and Gus and their parents for a day at the zoo, where they see all kinds of children and families – both animal and human! To top off their day, Nellie and Gus invite friends and relatives for a big dinner at home. The warm, humorous, family-filled illustrations; friendly conversations between the two siblings and matter-of-fact text will help young children feel that whoever is in their family, it is perfectly normal and totally wonderful. <i>Who's In My Family?</i> is part of a new picture book series for young children called, <i>Let's Talk About You and Me</i> , from award-winning author Robie H. Harris, illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott.	3-5 year olds
We belong together	Todd Parr	Families	Parent	Aimed at 3-6 year-olds writer and illustrator Todd Parr presents a kid-friendly approach to the ways adoptive families come together. We belong together because...You needed a home I had one to share Now, we are a family Bestselling author/illustrator Todd Parr has received hundreds of requests to write a book about adoption. And as he did with his beloved books <i>It's Okay to be Different</i> and <i>The Peace Book</i> , he has found a way to approach this challenging matter with humour and sensitivity through his bold and colourful illustrations and unique reassuring messages.	3-6 year olds
Meet the Parents	Peter Bentley & Sara Ogilvie	Families	Both	You may think your parents just boss you around and tell you what to do. And there's no getting away from it - they do have to do quite a lot of that! But there's so much more to them - did you realise they are also tent poles for dens that are wonky, dustbins for bits you don't want to eat up and grandstands to make you grow tall?	3-6 year olds

<p>The day the sea went out and never came back</p>	<p>Margot Sunderland</p>	<p>Loss</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>The Day the Sea Went Out and Never Came Back is a story for children who have lost someone they love. Eric is a sand dragon who loves the sea very much. Each day, he watches it going out and coming back. His sea is beautiful indeed to him. But one day, the sea goes out and does not come back. Eric waits and waits, but it does not come back. So he falls on the sand in terrible pain. It feels to him as if he has lost everything.</p> <p>After many bleak days, Eric sees a little wild flower. It is dying. Eric knows he must save it. He finds water. More and more flowers appear and so Eric starts to make a beautiful rock pool garden. And as he does, he finds the courage to feel the full pain of his loss, instead of closing his heart. He realises that his memories of his precious sea are like a special kind of treasure in his mind, a treasure he will never lose.</p>	<p>3-6 year olds</p>
<p>The Kissing Hand</p>	<p>Audrey Penn</p>	<p>School Transition</p>	<p>Parent</p>	<p>School is starting in the forest, but Chester Raccoon does not want to go. To help ease Chester's fears, Mrs. Raccoon shares a family secret called the Kissing Hand to give him the reassurance of her love any time his world feels a little scary. Since its first publication in 1993, this heartwarming book has become a children's classic that has touched the lives of millions of children and their parents, especially at times of separation, whether starting school, entering daycare, or going to camp. It is widely used by kindergarten teachers on the first day of school. Stickers at the back will help children and their parents keep their Kissing Hand alive.</p>	<p>3-7 year olds</p>

What makes a baby	Cory Silverberg	Families	Parent	Geared to readers from preschool to age eight, What Makes a Baby is a book for every kind of family and every kind of kid. It is a 21st century children's picture book about conception, gestation and birth, which reflects the reality of the modern era by being inclusive of all kinds of kids, adults, and families - regardless of how many people were involved, their orientation, gender and other identity, or family composition. Just as important, the story doesn't gender people or body parts, so people can apply their own family experience to the text.	3-7 year olds
Yes, I'm adopted!	Sharlie Zinniger	Adoption	Parent	"Yes, adoption makes me special, it means that I am loved..." This brightly colored children's book illustrates how adoption is brought about by love. Written from a child's point of view, the rhyming verse takes you through an adoption journey from start to finish. It is perfect for anyone, young or old, whose life has been blessed by adoption.	3-7 year olds
What type of family are we?	Lizzy Seaton	Families	Both	Have you ever wondered if there are other families like yours? Come take a journey with Ella and Oliver to discover the many shapes and sizes families come in today! This book celebrates families with a Mum and Dad, single Mums, two Dads, adoption, single Dads, two Mums, grandparents, and co-parents.	3-7 year olds

<p>Morris and the bundle of worries</p>	<p>Jill Seeney</p>	<p>Feelings</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>A charming picture book for young children in a range of situations, <i>Morris and the Bundle of Worries</i> shows that talking about problems, and facing worries with the help of others is more helpful than hiding your fears. Morris the mole has a secret. He has lots of worries - in fact, a big bundle of them. The worries fill up his bedroom which means he can't sleep. Morris doesn't know what to do. There are squiggly, wriggly worries, thorny, spiky ones, and even some TERRORS, which Morris is too scared to touch. The worries float around his head, and prick his paws, and make him shiver. He's scared to tell the other woodland animals about them. But one day, Morris finds a friend who can help him, and realises that problems are easier to deal with when you've got someone to talk to. Suddenly, the worries don't seem so frightening any more.</p>	<p>3-7 year olds</p>
<p>Elfa and the box of Memories</p>	<p>Michelle Bell</p>	<p>Identity</p>	<p>Parent</p>	<p>Elfa the elephant was in a bad mood. It was a hot day, and she was carrying a box on her back. It was really heavy and felt very uncomfortable. Elfa carried it on her back everywhere she went. She never took it off because she was scared of losing it. But even though it was a beautiful, shiny box, none of the other animals ever seemed to notice or ask what was inside... They didn't know that in it Elfa kept her most precious things - her memories. This is a beautifully illustrated picture book for young children on the importance of memories, sharing them, and finding ways of keeping them alive</p>	<p>3-7 year olds</p>

<p>Picnic in the Park</p>	<p>Joe Griffiths and Tony Pilgrim</p>	<p>Families</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>"Picnic in the Park" tells the story of Jason's birthday picnic and his guests. In so doing, it introduces children to a range of family structures, including two- and one-parent families; adoptive and foster families; gay and lesbian families; and step-families. It also shows a diverse range of adults and children. Using the device of a birthday picnic in the park, each page shows a new set of guests coming to the party; children can draw their own and friends' families on the pages at the back. Vividly illustrated, this book is an invaluable tool for introducing children to contemporary family structures. It can be used with children in a wide range of situations, from school lessons about diversity to children who are to be adopted, in preparing them for a new family. Indeed, given the scope of the contents, this book could be used with any child in any setting to introduce them to modern-day family structures.</p>	<p>3-7 year olds</p>
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A safe place for Rufus	Jill Seeney	Feelings	Both	<p>This colourful picture book for young children, aged 4-8 years old, explores the importance of feeling safe and banishing fears, particularly for adopted and fostered children. Rufus the cat lives with a family who looks after him, feeds him his favourite foods and gives him lots of cuddles. He feels happy and safe, especially when he is lying on his favourite blue cushion. But he didn't always feel this way. The family that Rufus used to live with were not kind to him at all. Thinking about his past makes him angry and sad and Rufus struggles to escape from his memories and find a safe place where he can just relax and be himself. Change and transition, such as moving house, starting a new school or perhaps even leaving home, can cause confusion and uncertainty for very young children. If they have to move from one family to another, the change is often too big for them to full comprehend in advance; no matter how thorough the preparation, the child still has to take a very big leap into the dark. It takes time for children to trust enough to feel safe. Like Rufus, they have to discover a way to banish their fears, and like Rufus, they can be helped by finding a "safe place" of their own. Accompanied by comprehensive guidelines containing useful suggestions for questions and activities to encourage children to think about their own behaviour; talk about their own fears and bad memories; and identify their own safe places.</p>	4+ year olds
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The Invisible String	Patrice Karst	Love	Both	<p>Parents, educators, therapists, and social workers alike have declared <i>The Invisible String</i> the perfect tool for coping with all kinds of separation anxiety, loss, and grief. In this relatable and reassuring contemporary classic, a mother tells her two children that they're all connected by an invisible string. "That's impossible!" the children insist, but still they want to know more: "What kind of string?" The answer is the simple truth that binds us all: An Invisible String made of love. Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it deep in your heart, and know that you are always connected to the ones you love. Does everybody have an Invisible String? How far does it reach? Does it ever go away? This heartwarming picture book for all ages explores questions about the intangible yet unbreakable connections between us, and opens up deeper conversations about love.</p> <p>Recommended and adopted by parenting blogs, bereavement support groups, hospice centers, foster care and social service agencies, military library services, church groups, and educators, <i>The Invisible String</i> offers a very simple approach to overcoming loneliness, separation, or loss with an imaginative twist that children easily understand and embrace, and delivers a particularly compelling message in today's uncertain times.</p>	4-7 year olds
Tell me again about the night I was born	Jamie lee Curtis	Adoption	Parent	The author/illustrator team who brought readers the bestselling <i>When I Was Little: A Four-Year-Old's Memoir of Her Youth</i> returns with a paperback edition of a fresh new picture book. <i>Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born</i> presents a unique, exuberant story about adoption and the importance of a loving family. Full color.	4-7 year olds

The Blanket Bears	Samual Langley-Swain	Adoption	Both	<p>An accessible, warm-hearted story, written by an adoptive parent, centred around two young bears who find themselves out in the cold, alone, and begin their journey to being adopted into a forever family. The story acknowledges the mix of emotions children being adopted can feel – the fear and worry, as well as the joy of experiencing love and kindness from their new carers. With appealing animal characters and beautiful illustrations, The Blanket Bears offers an honest yet gentle account of the complete adoption journey for children starting or trying to understand the process. It's also a great introduction to young children more widely about how the process of adoption works and how some families come to be together. In order to strike the right balance of accuracy and sensitivity for young readers, the author consulted and collaborated with professionals and psychologists as well as drawing on the lived experiences of his children. Many children's books about adoption focus purely on adapting into the new family but this has a more holistic and realistic focus, all from a child's perspective. This book is perfect for primary schools in early years and key stage 1 to help children empathise with their adopted peers. Social workers, foster carers and adoptive families with younger children often use The Blanket Bears as a soft and sensitive warm up to life story work as it helps adopted children feel less alone and process their own adoption story through their shared experiences with the bears in the story.</p>	4-7 year olds
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Adoption	Anita Ganeri	Adoption	Parent	This hands-on picture book is designed to help children with their questions and feelings about tricky topics that can be hard to talk about. The exquisite and approachable illustrations give a comforting story book feel, particularly aimed at 5-7 year olds, while also appealing to both younger and older children. A perfect aid to help children open up and explore how they feel and give them steps they can take to help them cope.	4-7 year olds
Nutmeg gets adopted	Judith Foxon	Adoption	Parent	This classic children's book has helped many adopted children to understand their situation and what has happened to them. It sensitively explores the adoption process, from a child's point of view. Nutmeg gets Adopted tells the story of three squirrels who have to leave their birth parents, are moved into a foster family, and then to a new mum and dad who adopt them. It is intended to be read to or with children by their own social worker, their current carers or adoptive parents. Guidelines offer suggestions as to how the book can be best used with children. Children separated from their birth parents need practical help to explore and understand some of the painful memories they will have of their early life. This book, and the other five books in the series, provides that help.	4-7 year olds
The frog who longed for the moon to smile	Margot Sunderland	Loss	Parent	The Frog Who Longed for the Moon to Smile is a story for children who yearn for someone they love. Frog is very much in love with the moon because she once smiled at him. So now he spends all his time dreaming about her. He waits and waits for her to smile at him again. One day a wise and friendly crow helps frog to see how he is wasting his life away. All the time he has been facing the place of very little, he's had his back to the place of plenty.	4-7 year olds

<p>Ida, Always</p>	<p>Caron Lewis and Charles Santoso</p>	<p>Loss</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>A beautiful, honest portrait of loss and deep friendship told through the story of two iconic polar bears. Gus lives in a big park in the middle of an even bigger city, and he spends his days with Ida. Ida is right there. Always. Then one sad day, Gus learns that Ida is very sick, and she isn't going to get better. The friends help each other face the difficult news with whispers, sniffles, cuddles, and even laughs. Slowly Gus realizes that even after Ida is gone, she will still be with him--through the sounds of their city, and the memories that live in their favorite spots.</p>	<p>4-8 year olds</p>
<p>I've loved you since forever</p>	<p>Hoda Kotlo</p>	<p>Love</p>	<p>Parent</p>	<p>I've Loved You Since Forever is a celebratory and poetic testament to the timeless love felt between parent and child. This beautiful picture book is inspired by Today show co-anchor Hoda Kotb's heartwarming adoption of her baby girl, Haley Joy.</p> <p>With Kotb's lyrical text and stunning pictures by Suzie Mason, young ones and parents will want to snuggle up and read the pages of this book together, over and over again. This board book is perfect for sharing with the littlest ones.</p>	<p>4-8 year olds</p>
<p>I don't have your eyes</p>	<p>Carrie A. Kitze</p>	<p>Identity</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>Family connections are important to children as they begin to find their place in the world. For adopted children and children in foster care or kinship placements, celebrating the differences within their families as well as the similarities that connect them is the foundation for belonging.</p>	<p>4-8 year olds</p>

The child of dreams	Irena Brignull	Families	Both	A little girl wants to know where she came from and why she doesn't have a father. When her mother cannot tell her, the girl decides to find out for herself. Her journey leads her on a quest through the woods, tracing her own story back to its source with the help of the animals she meets, until she discovers what truly matters in making a family. A beautiful, timeless story with sumptuous illustrations, this classic gift book from acclaimed screenwriter Irena Brignull and exciting illustrator Richard Jones will be shared and treasured by all families whatever their shape or size.	4-8 year olds
The Boy who built a wall around himself	Ali Redford	Feelings	Both	Boy built a wall to keep himself safe. Behind it he felt strong and more protected. Then Someone Kind came along. She bounced a ball, sang and painted on the other side of the wall, and Boy began to wonder if life on the other side might be better after all. Written for children aged 4 to 9, this gentle full-colour picture book uses a simple metaphor to explain how children who have had painful or traumatic experiences can build barriers between themselves and other people. It will help children explore their feelings and encourage communication.	4-9 year olds

<p>The most precious present in the world</p>	<p>Becky Edwards</p>	<p>Identity</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>This simply written, engaging story focuses on the universal idea of looking like (or not looking like) your family. This is used to give adopted children the reassuring messages that not only are they very special to their adoptive parents, but that it is alright for them to have mixed feelings about their adoption. Mia's eyes are dark brown and her dad's are bright blue. She has masses of curly brown hair, but her mum's is straight and blonde. Why doesn't Mia look like her parents? It's because she is adopted. Her adoptive mum tells her that she looks different because her curly hair and dark eyes are presents from the birth parents who were unable to look after her. Taking the form of a dialogue between a little girl and her adoptive mother, the book explores questions that might preoccupy an adopted child. Mia wants to know why she looks different to her adoptive parents; why her birth parents didn't want to keep her and whether her curly hair, dark eyes and dimple really are goodbye presents from her birth parents. Although young children might sometimes worry about looking physically different to their family members, this charming, illustrated book will help adopted children to understand that physical difference is not a barrier to finding love and security within an adoptive family.</p>	<p>4-9 year olds</p>
<p>Little stork's new home</p>	<p>Carolyne Robertson</p>	<p>Adoption</p>	<p>Parent</p>	<p>Little Stork's New Home is a beautifully illustrated book that sensitively explains the full process of modern day adoption. A young stork is unable to care for her hatchling and the hatchling is eventually moved from her nest, to a foster family and finally to an adopted family. This story is an allegory to the entire adoption process and provides a good starting point to help children understand their adoption journey.</p>	<p>4-9 year olds</p>

ABC, Adoption and me	Gayle H. Swift with Casey A. Swift	Adoption	Parent	A book about adoption that celebrates the miracle of family and addresses the difficult issues as well. With charming, exuberant illustrations and a diverse representation of families, ABC, Adoption & Me will warm hearts, deepen understanding of what it means to be an adoptive family and provide teaching moments that bring families closer, connected in truth, compassion, and joy.	5-10 year olds
Happy Adoption Day!	John McCutcheon	Adoption	Parent	This adaptation of McCutcheon's song commemorates the day when a child joins an adoptive family. Complete with musical notation, these verses reassure adopted children they are special. Full-color illustrations.	5-8 year olds
Emma's yucky brother	Jean Little	Adoption	Parent	Emma finds out how hard it is to be a big sister when her family adopts a four-year-old boy named Max.	6-8 year olds
The little green goose	Adele Sansone	Adoption	Both	Mr. Goose finds an abandoned egg, hatches it, and raises a peculiar green-skinned long-tailed chick, who worries about his identity but comes to recognize that he has a loving parent.	6-8 year olds
Why was I adopted?	Carole Livingstone	Adoption	Parent	Offers a simple explanation of the adoption process designed to reinforce the young child's feelings of love and self-esteem	6-8 year olds
All about adoption - how families are made and how kids feel about it		Adoption	Parent	For the child who already understands the concept of adoption, this work provides a deeper understanding of how the adoption process works and the feelings that many children have about being adopted. Topics include why children are given up for adoption and why adoptive parents want to adopt. It also helps children understand feelings of sadness, anger, curiosity about the birth parents, fears about abandonment, worries about fitting in and being teased, and feelings about being different.	7-10 year olds

<p>Billy Bramble and the Great Big Cook Off</p>	<p>Sally Donovan</p>	<p>Attachment</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>Poor Billy seems to get everything wrong. However hard he tries, somehow or another things never work out well. And secretly Billy knows why - it's him, there is something wrong with him. Sally Donovan's deeply felt story gives us a glimpse of how hard it is for Billy to keep trying and hoping that things might be different. He seems actively to push away all attempts to help him and the adults struggle to know how to do anything of use. With his tricky dog by his side Billy doesn't know how to be close. Until the Bake Off. The accumulation of the months and years of stubborn care provided by kind adults starts to break through and we see the vulnerable parts of Billy (which have been there all along) begin to emerge. This moving and psychologically sound story encapsulates many key themes expressed by vulnerable children and paints a vivid picture of the seeming impossible dilemmas they may be facing. Compelling for children, this book will also be of great value to adults as through Billy they gain insight into the risks children face when they begin to dare to trust.</p>	<p>8-12 year olds</p>
<p>Dustbin Baby</p>	<p>Jacqueline Wilson</p>	<p>Identity</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>April knows she was abandoned in a rubbish bin as a newborn baby, fourteen years ago. Now she's happily settled with her foster mother, Marion - but there's a part of April that's desperate to know where she really came from, and who she really is. If only she could remember her real mother - or even find her . . . An engrossing, engaging and highly moving novel from the acclaimed bestseller Jacqueline Wilson.</p>	<p>9-11 year olds</p>

<p>Adoption is a lifelong journey</p>	<p>Kelly DiBenedetto, Katie Gorczyca & Jennifer</p>	<p>Adoption</p>	<p>Both</p>	<p>Meet Charlie, an adoptee who opens his heart and shares what's on his mind through various phases as he grows up in his adoptive home. As the narrator of ADOPTION IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY, Charlie invites readers to see the adoption journey from the perspective of a child adoptee. This illustrated book — a tool for families touched by adoption and foster care — provides insight into emotions and thoughts an adoptee or foster child might encounter while also equipping parents and caregivers with timely responses and resources. While every adoption story is unique, Charlie's voice brings to light common themes the authors encounter as post adoption therapists at Boston Post Adoption Resources (BPAR). The book begins with Charlie settling into his adoptive home and progresses as he grapples with challenges such as building trust, feeling a sense of worth, relating to his beginnings, and establishing his identity. The illustrated portion connects to recommendations for parents: things to think about, tips for conversations, family activities, and additional resources. Who can benefit from the book: adoptive or foster parents, mental health professionals, adoption and foster care agencies, prospective adoptive parents, teachers and school health facilitators.</p>	<p>Adult</p>
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