

Appendix E: Books for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Youth

Picture Books

- [From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea](#), by Kai Cheng Thom (Author), Kai Yun Ching (Illustrator), Wai-Yant Li (Illustrator)

This Canadian picture book, written by Kai Cheng Thom and illustrated by Kai Yun Ching and Wai-Yant Li, tells the story of a magical gender diverse child who brings magic and change to the world around them with the support of their mother's love. The book challenges gender, racial, and body stereotypes and celebrates the unconditional love and support of gender diverse children.

- [Worm Loves Worm](#), by J.J. Austrian (Author), Mike Curato (Illustrator)

This book, written by J.J. Austrian and illustrated by Mike Curato, tells the story of two worms who fall in love and want to get married. Worm loves Worm explores the idea of love and marriage outside of the gender binary, rejecting the notion that marriage needs to be between a bride and a groom. The book is a good introduction to gender and love for children 4-8 years old.

- [Everywhere Babies](#), by Susan Meyers (Author), Marla Frazee (Illustrator)

This board book, by Susan Meyers (Author) and Marla Frazee (Illustrator) is aimed at children from 18 months - 4 years old. The book celebrates the diversity of babies and their families everywhere. It includes representation of 2SLGBTQ+ families and emphasizes that what makes a family is love.

- [I Promise](#), by Catherine Hernandez

(Author), Syrus Marcus Ware (Illustrator)

I Promise, a Canadian picture book by Catherine Hernandez (author) and Syrus Marcus Ware (illustrator) showcases, celebrates, and normalizes the different forms that families can take. It focuses specifically on 2SLGBTQ+ families, showing that like all families, they begin with the promise to love a child.

- [Julián Is a Mermaid](#), by Jessica Love (Author and Illustrator)

Julián is a Mermaid, written and illustrated by Jessica Love, tells the story of a young boy who wants to be a mermaid. The story shows children that it is okay to not fit into gender stereotypes and celebrates and encourages the love and support that caregivers can offer children who do not follow the behaviours ascribed by gender stereotypes.

- [The Boy & The Bindi](#), by Vivek Shraya (Author), Rajni Perera (Illustrator)

This Canadian picture book, written by Vivek Shraya and illustrated by Rajni Perera, explores concepts of identity and culture, affirming important values of Hindu culture while challenging dominant expectations about gender expression. It is a joyful exploration of gender identity and cultural differences.

- [When Aidan Became A Brother](#), by Kyle Lukoff (Author), Kaylani Juanita (Illustrator)

When Aidan became a Brother, by Kyle Lukoff (Author), Kaylani Juanita (Illustrator), tells the story of Aidan, a trans boy whose parents are expecting another baby. Through Aidan's struggle to have everything fit the new baby's gender identity perfectly from the beginning this story challenges gender stereotypes and provides an excellent exploration of the importance of approaching conversations about gender identity with honesty, communication, acceptance, and support.

- [The Great Big Book of Families](#), by Mary Hoffman (Author), Ros Asquith (Illustrator)

The Great Big Book of Families, by Mary Hoffman (Author) and Ros Asquith (Illustrator) highlights family diversity, providing children with an opportunity to explore what it means to be a family and the different forms that families can take. The book broadens children's understanding of families and affirms the love within their own family structures.

Chapter Books/Middle Grade

- [Melissa's Story](#), by Alex Gino (published under the title *George*).

This novel, written by genderqueer author Alex Gino, tells the story of Melissa, a Xth grader who knows she is a girl even though everyone sees as a boy. The novel follows her mission towards playing Charlotte in her class's production of *Charlotte's web*. The book celebrates the power that trans and gender-diverse children hold in being themselves, while calling on their peers, caregivers, etc. to offer unconditional love and support as they begin to outwardly express this aspect of their identity.

- [Zenobia July](#), by Lisa Bunker

Zenobia July by Lisa Bunker is a heartfelt, coming of age story of a trans girl named Zenobia. Importantly it presents readers with full characters who are not defined by their trans identity. The novel strikes a good balance of explaining and normalizing trans and gender-diverse identities.

- [Obie Is Man Enough](#), by Schuyler Bailar

Obie is Man Enough is a novel written by Schuyler Bailar, a trans athlete and the first to compete in any sport on an NCAA D1 men's team. The book follows a trans boy and swimmer named Obie as he faces transphobia from his old swim team and has to join a new swim team and make new friends. The story showcases that trans and gender-diverse children are not defined by their gender identity, but that having friends and family who support this aspect of their identity will help them to live more fully.

- [Kenzie Kickstarts a Team](#), by Kit Rosewater (Author), Sophie Escabasse (Illustrator)

This highly illustrated middle-grade book explores new friendships, first crushes, and getting outside of your comfort zone as the main characters Kenzie and Shelly try to become roller derby superstars. The book includes a diversity of identities, resists gender stereotypes, and offers casual representation of trans parents and non-heterosexual attraction.

- [The Prince and the Dressmaker](#), by Jen Wang

This graphic novel, written by Jen Wang, tells the story of Prince Sebastian. As his parents are pressuring him to find a wife, Prince Sebastian rebels against gender stereotypes and spends his nights dressing in beautiful dresses and taking on Paris as the fabulous Lady Crystallia. This graphic novel encourages readers to celebrate differences in gender expression and accept people for who they are.

- [Princess Princess Ever After](#), by Katie O'Neill

This graphic fantasy novel begins when a princess saves another princess from a tower. As they embark on adventures together and fall in love, the reader is able to challenge traditional understandings of gender and romance. The graphic novel encourages readers to be fully themselves and accept and celebrate others for doing the same.

- [The Witch Boy](#), by Molly Ostertag

This middle school graphic novel, written by Molly Ostertag, follows the story of Aster, a young boy who despite traditional gender roles in his family, wants to become a witch rather than a shapeshifter. The novel helps children to question gender stereotypes and affirms the gender identity of children who do not fit within them.

- [Sex is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU](#), by Cory Silverberg (Author), Fiona Smyth (Illustrations)

This comic book includes children and families of a diversity of structures, sexualities, and gender identities. This book is an essential resource about bodies, gender, and sexuality for children ages 8-10 as well as their families.

For an extensive list of books and movies that is sortable by topic and age/grade level, please visit <https://ok2bme.ca/resources/books-and-movies/>

