An Annotated Bibliography of Books, DVDs, and Internet Resources on Same-Sex Parenting Since 2007

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Introduction
We have seen quite an increase in the numbers of same-sex couples raising children in recent years. This is probably due to several factors, including the great progress made in securing marriage equality in several states, a greater range of options for same-sex couples to become parents, and increasing acceptance of same-sex parenting in much of American society. As more gay and lesbian parents become visible, and their children grow into adults, other people are becoming accustomed to seeing same-sex parents as a different but at-least tolerable way of raising children.

This bibliography supplements the same-sex marriage bibliography that is also found on this GLBTRT webpage. It includes a wide range of books, DVDs, and Internet resources related to same-sex parenting published since 2007. The books have all been published in print, although increasingly many of them may also be found as e-books. Separate sections contain memoirs, novels, plays, and children’s books (including several picture books). We plan to update this resource in the future. If you have any suggestions or updates, please contact the GLBTRT Resources Committee.
GENERAL NONFICTION

Explores the experience of Latinas who do not conform to traditional gender or cultural roles by identifying as lesbian, queer, or bisexual, including ones who have children.

Provides a detailed history of how LGBT parents have turned to the courts to protect and defend their relationships with their children, and shows how the law is increasingly recognizing the diversity in American familial structures.

Explores the gamut of historical, legal, sociological, psychological, social casework, and personal issues related to adoption by sexual-minority individuals and couples.

Uses psychoanalysis to explore the theoretical implications for the gendering of the human subject when lesbians raise children from birth.

Essays and interviews that focus on the multiple ways that LGBTQ people are choosing to become parents and raise children.

Examines the ways in which gay fathers approach and negotiation parenthood when they adopt, drawing from interviews with 70 gay men, and finds that they alternately pioneer and accommodate heteronormative “parenthood culture”.

A review of the research on gay and lesbian couples and parents and their children.

An interdisciplinary and international group of scholars cover every contemporary topic concerning LGBT families, including transgender parenting, LGBTQ youth with LGBTQ parents, and LGBT grandparents, and issues of race/ethnicity, social class, and geographic diversity are discussed.
Hequembourg, Amy. *Lesbian Motherhood: Stories of Becoming*. Harrington Park Press, 2007. Poststructuralist theory is applied to lesbian mothers’ narratives to discover the complex ways their sense of self is constructed in the current legal, political, and social climate.

Hicks, Stephen. *Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Parenting: Families, Intimacies, Genealogies*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. Based upon original research with gay and lesbian parents, primarily but not exclusively those who have fostered or adopted children, this book considers the identities, subjectivities, and connections in the complexity of their everyday lives.

Kelly, Fiona J. *Transforming Law’s Family: The Legal Recognition of Planned Lesbian Motherhood*. UBC Press, 2011. (Also available as e-book) Explores the complex issues encountered by planned lesbian families in Canada as they work to define their parental rights, roles, and family structures within the tenets of family law.


Luce, Jacquelyne. *Beyond Expectation: Lesbian/Bi/Queer Women and Assisted Conception*. University of Toronto Press, 2010. Uses narrative interviews from British Columbia in the late 1990s to show the significant changes to the governance of assisted conception and the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents and same-sex partners from 1980 to 2000.

Mamo, Laura. *Queering Reproduction: Achieving Pregnancy in the Age of Technoscience*. Duke University Press, 2007. Based on interviews with 36 lesbians with families that used assisted reproduction, this study finds that lesbian families both challenge and reinforce existing values, norms, and institutional practices regarding gender and family.

McClain, Linda C., and Daniel Cere. *What is Parenthood?: Contemporary Debates About the Family*. NYU Press, 2013. (Also available as e-book) An interdisciplinary group of scholars with different perspectives examine competing models of parenthood and an array of topics that include gay and lesbian parents and gender difference and parenthood.

Uses personal interviews to analyze how race, class, sexual identity, and family history factor into the decisions of lesbians to form families.

This book focuses on the courts’ roles in adjudicating the rights claims of gay families (cases involving gay parents or gay children).

Explores the experiences of bisexual students, mixed sexual-orientation families, and polyamorous families in schools.

Uses feminist philosophy and queer theory to critique the widespread cultural insistence that every child should have only one “real” mother, and shows how families created through open adoption, same-sex parenting, divorce, and plural marriage counter this mandate.

Focuses on judicial decisions in the indeterminate and discretionary area of American family law and what they say about family, rights, sexual orientation, and who qualifies as a parent.

History of lesbian and gay parenthood since the 1950’s, using archival research and interviews.

Explores the topic of child raising by gay or lesbian couples by presenting opposing viewpoints on the issue.

Drawing from interviews with lesbian parents in Sweden and Ireland, this book explores differences in family formation and social exclusion, such as Swedish lesbian mothers preferring a donor-father with parenting responsibilities and Irish lesbian mothers preferring donors that are not involved in raising the children.

research articles that examine the dynamics of same-sex parenting, the consequences of different routes to same-sex parenthood, and the effects of social perceptions on gay and lesbian family life.

Explores the intersections between class and sexuality in lesbians’ and gay men’s experiences of parenting.

An exploration of the concept of family as it was defined by six early adolescents and their lesbian parents.
MEMOIRS
Tells the story of Alysia growing up with her bisexual writer father Steve Abbott in San Francisco and of the time he asked her to come home and help him when he became ill with AIDS.

The darkly humorous memoir of a single lesbian who becomes pregnant and deals with her parents, unhelpful friends, and an ex-girlfriend that she wants back.

A collection of essays about a son being raised by his two queer, polyamorous trans dads.

In this multigenerational story of an alternative family, the author writes about her father’s adoption in the 1930s, her stepfather’s adoption of her in the 1960s, and then her partner Pam’s second-parent adoption of her sons in the 1990s.

Writer Dan Bucatinsky tells about his sometimes-humorous experiences raising two children with his partner and film director Don Roos.

Lesbian poet Cheryl Dumesnil encounters various obstacles on her path to parenthood.

Intimate history of a family of two men and triplets that were together for a year before being torn apart.

A collection of personal essays by donors, biological and non-biological parents, and their children explores the role of the “known donor” in the queer family structure.

Two women meet, fall in love, and then get pregnant at the same time and discover they have very different views of their impending motherhood.

A butch Chicana lesbian writes with humor about her attempts to become a mother.
The author found out that his mother was a lesbian when he was a teenager and eventually evolved into a supportive straight son.

Humorous autobiography by one-half of a gay couple that tells their story of having a baby with a surrogate mother.

The author wrestles with the anxieties and challenges of first-time parenthood as her lesbian partner has a child.

Chronicles the difficulty journey of a gay man in Scotland to become a father by using a surrogacy agency.

A butch lesbian created a graphic novel describing the sometimes-humorous experiences of her pregnancy.

A son of same-gender parents describes his positive experience growing up in an alternative family.

Memoir about growing up with a gay father in the 1980’s.
FICTION

A divorced gay painter with two children goes on many dates until he finds his soulmate as he starts over romantically in midlife.

Humorous novel about a lesbian whose partner accidentally becomes pregnant.

Recently divorced and out handyman Noah is looking for an appropriate boyfriend while he is raising his two teenage sons.

A marine biologist in Monterey, California, experiences difficulties in his relationship with his teenage daughter while he moves into a relationship with a graduate student.

A gay man adopts a troubled 8-year-old boy.

After becoming a victim of domestic abuse, a mother and her son move in with her lesbian best friend and then fight a custody battle for the son.

Sequel to: *Good to Know*. After William’s parents died, he was adopted by his uncle Jerry, who then married David, and now he wishes he had a brother.

Dan Sharp, a gay father and investigator, hunts for a possible killer after a wedding party member is swept overboard from a yacht and someone else is reported missing.

Tachna, Ariel. *Her Two Dads*. Dreamspinner Press, 2010. (Also available as e-book)
Srikkanth Bhattacharya struggles with raising his baby girl while falling in love with his friend Jaime who helps take care of his daughter.

A gay father tries to convince the police that his family is in danger.
DRAMA
Screenplay of the film about a lesbian couple and their two teenage children meeting the children’s biological father.

Dusty and his animated friends hold a competition to find a model family based on letters written by children.

Two brothers confront their mother’s lesbian partner after their mother’s funeral and fight over their childhood home.
CHILDREN & TEENS
Children’s book that presents a discussion of homosexuality and issues regarding households with two mothers or two fathers.

A little girl has two mothers and that presents challenges.

A teenager visits his actor father in Los Angeles and finds out that he is gay.

A high school student deals with his parents’ divorce and both his father and his school friend coming out as gay.

Follows Mama Bear, Mommy Bear, and Baby Bear as they encounter Goldilocks.

Children’s picture book shows a toddler spending the day with his two daddies.

Donovan prepares for his special role in his two mothers’ wedding ceremony in this children’s book.

A baby enjoys fun activities with her two mothers in this children’s picture book.

Children’s book features a young girl describing life with her two fathers.

A boy on a beach tells two other children about his two mothers.

Tells the story of twin girls who have two fathers, a gay couple, and their happy, loving family. For ages 3 and up.

Provides an origin story for young children (preschool-Grade 2) that depicts the diversity of families today, including different genders and gender identities, while showing the basic biology of reproduction.
Thomas, Pat. *This is My Family: A First Look at Same-Sex Parents*. Barron’s Educational Series, 2012.  
Introduces 4-8-year-old children to families that have parents of the same sex by showing both same-sex and opposite-sex parents interacting with their children at a petting zoo.

Novel in verse with a 16-year-old girl navigating family, friends, and love, including two boyfriends and her father leaving her mother for a younger man.
**DVDs**

*Any Day Now.* PFM Pictures ; Travis Fine, director. Music Box Films, 2013. When a teenager with Down Syndrome is abandoned by his mother, a gay couple (played by Alan Cumming and Garret Dillahunt) takes him in, but then they have to fight a biased legal system to keep him.

*Beginners.* Alliance Films ; Mike Mills, director. Focus Features, 2011. A young man is shocked to find out that his father has terminal cancer and a young male lover.

*Fatherhood Dreams.* Knowledge Network ; Julia Ivanova, director. Interfilm Productions, 2007. This documentary presents the personal lives of four gay Canadian men who are fulfilling their dreams of being a father.

*In the Family.* Patrick Wang, director. New Yorker Films, 2013. After 6-year-old Chip’s father Cody dies, his other father Joey has to find a way to deal with their son being taken by Cody’s sister when she is named his guardian in Cody’s will.

*The Kids Are All Right.* Focus Features ; Lisa Cholodenko, director. Universal Studios Home Entertainment, 2010. Comedy film about a lesbian couple with two teenage children who meet the children’s biological father.


Off and Running: An American Coming of Age Story. First Run Features; Nicole Opper, director. First Run Features, 2010.
Documentary about a teenage track and field athlete, adopted by Jewish lesbian mothers, who searches for her African-American birth mother.

Redwoods. Funny Boy Films; David Lewis, director. TLA Releasing, 2009.
Everett meets a handsome writer while his partner Miles and their autistic son are out-of-town.

Six gay couples who have become parents through insemination, co-parenting, or adoption are interviewed.

This is Family. One Planet/MD Productions; Jean-Baptiste Erreca, director. Landmark Media, 2009?
Profiles the diversity of gay and transgender households today.

Comedy film about a cartoonist and her attorney girlfriend as they try to decide whether and how to have a baby.

Teenage Tru struggles to fit in when her lesbian mothers move the family to a conservative suburb.
INTERNET RESOURCES

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. “Same-Sex Parents and Their Children.”
http://www.aamft.org/imis15/aamft/Content/Consumer_Updates/Same-sex_Parents_and_Their_Children.aspx


Calgary Gay Fathers: a support group for gay, bisexual, and questioning fathers.
http://www.calgarygayfathers.ca/

COLAGE: organization of people with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer parents
http://www.colage.org/

Conger, Cristen. “5 Gay Parenting Myths.”
http://people.howstuffworks.com/5-gay-parenting-myths.htm#page=0

http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/635/abstract

Encyclopedia of Children and Childhood in History and Society. “Same-Sex Parenting.”
http://www.faqs.org/childhood/Re-So/Same-Sex-Parenting.html

Family Watch International. “Same-Sex Parenting and Junk Science.”
http://www.familywatchinternational.org/fwi/policy_brief_ss_parenting.pdf
Organization that opposes same-sex parenting.

Freedom to Marry. “My Two Dads: 8 Families Share How They’re Celebrating Fathers’ Day This Year.”
http://www.freedomtomarry.org/blog/entry/my-two-dads-8-families-share-how-theyre-celebrating-fathers-day-this-year

Gartrell, Nanette, and 4 others. “Adolescents With Lesbian Mothers Describe Their Own Lives.”
http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/parenting/adolescents-with-lesbian-mothers-describe-their-own-lives/
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. “Selected Bibliography of Recent Co-Parent Cases.”

http://gaybidads.org/

Gay Dads Australia: a resource for gay dads and those thinking of becoming dads.
http://gaydadsaustralia.blogspot.com/

Gay Fathers Association of Seattle.
http://www.gfas.org/

Gay Fathers Atlanta.
http://www.gayfathersatlanta.org/

Gay Fathers Coalition of Richmond, VA: social and support organization for gay and bisexual fathers.
http://gfc-richmond.org/

Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: network of gay men who have children living with them or apart from them.
http://www.gayfathersboston.org/

Gay Fathers of Toronto: peer support group run by and for gay men who are fathers.
http://www.gayfathers-toronto.com/

Gay Fathers Project: research project on hormones and fatherhood in same-sex male couples.
http://gayfathers.commons.yale.edu/

Gays With Kids: helping gay dads navigate fatherhood.
http://gayswithkids.com/

http://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/3887

Handsome Father: fostering a community of support for gay fathers and fathers-to-be.
https://www.thehandsomefather.org/

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents: social and support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender parents.
http://www.hglp.org/
Huffington Post. “Children of Gay Parents.”
Compiles recent articles related to same-sex parents.

http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2012/08/6065/
Written by a bisexual man who was raised by his lesbian mother and her partner and posted on the conservative Witherspoon Institute’s website.

http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6196&context=dissertations

http://www.ibtimes.com/mothers-day-trials-tribulations-being-lesbian-stay-home-mom-1582524

Nolo. “Gay and Lesbian Adoption and Parenting: The Legal Rights of Same-Sex Parents, From Adoption to Coparenting to Second Parent Rights.”

Parenting.com. “Meet the Same-Sex Parents Next Door: Read One Mom’s Take on How Gay Parenting is Becoming Part of America’s Social Fabric.”
http://www.parenting.com/article/same-sex-parenting


http://www.uclalawreview.org/?p=4182

Pop Luck Club: a community of gay dads building families through fostering, adoption, coparenting, and surrogacy.
http://www.popluckclub.org/

Sprigg, Peter. “New Study on Homosexual Parents Tops All Previous Research.”
http://www.frc.org/issuebrief/new-study-on-homosexual-parents-tops-all-previous-research
Article sponsored by the Family Research Council, an antigay organization.
WikiHow. “How to Deal With Having Gay Parents: 7 Steps (With Pictures).”

Wikipedia. “LGBT Parenting.”
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_parenting

Williams Institute. “Parenting.”
http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/category/research/parenting/
Research supporting same-sex parenting.