

Fostering an appreciation for all kinds of families: Picturebooks with gay and lesbian themes.

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Fostering an Appreciation for all Kinds of Families: Picturebooks with Gay and Lesbian Themes

Kay Chick

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Abstract

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'Good-bye Antonio,' a sleepy voice calls out as Antonio leaves for school. It is Leslie, his mother's partner. She waves through the bedroom window, as she does every morning. Antonio runs up to the window and presses his hand against the glass, his small hand against her bigger hand.'

(from Antonio's Card, González 2005)

The issues, problems and biases experienced by non-traditional families are often complex and confusing, even for adults. Gay-sensitive picturebooks, however, such as the one quoted from here, can help young children to understand themselves and others while modelling for them what is important in homes, schools and society (Casement 2002). Picturebooks help to define the issues and translate them into experiences and language that young children can understand and identify with (Cooper 2000). Gay-themed literature also affords children of gay parents the opportunity to validate their experiences and see them-

Fostering an Appreciation for all Kinds of Families

Picturebooks with Gay and Lesbian Themes

by KAY CHICK



Kay Chick is associate professor of curriculum and instruction at Penn State Altoona, Pennsylvania, USA

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