



Foster Care

Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

- Murphy's Three Homes** by Jan Levinson Gilman, 2008 Picture Book GILMAN
A puppy who moves from home to home learns that it is not his fault, and finds a family who will love him even if he struggles to obey their rules. (Grades PreK-1)
- A Mother for Choco** by Keiko Kasza, 1992 Picture Book KASZA
A motherless bird searches for the right place to belong – and finally finds it with Mrs. Bear, who takes Choco into her loving home and introduces him to his new siblings. (Grades PreK-K)
- Do Unto Otters** by Laurie Keller, 2009 Picture Book KELLER
Entering a foster home means adjusting to unfamiliar household expectations. This book about manners is silly and approachable enough to be discussed between a foster caregiver and the children in their home in order to explain the reasons behind the rules (Grades K-3)
- My Dog Is As Smelly As Dirty Socks** by Hanoch Piven, 2007 Picture Book PIVEN
During their time in foster care, children often create Life Books with pictures and stories about their biological families. This book, while not specifically geared towards foster care, suggests creative collage techniques that might work well in Life Books. (Grades 2-4)
- Aunt Minnie McGranahan** by Mary Skillings Prigger, 1999. Picture Book PRIGGER
Based on a true story; when nine orphans came to live with her, Aunt Minnie came up with a solution: "The oldest looked after the youngest, the ones in the middle looked after each other, and Aunt Minnie looked after them all." (Grades K-3)
- Lots of Grandparents** by Shelley Rotner, 2003. Picture Book ROTNER
In simple text and photo illustrations, grandparents of various cultures and ethnic groups share happy times with their grandchildren. The book specifically mentions grandparents who serve as primary caregivers for their grandchildren. (Grades PreK-1)
- A Child is A Child** by Brigette Weninger, 2004 Picture Book WENINGER
After two young frogs are abandoned by their parents, Mama Mouse mobilizes the entire animal community to help care for them. (Grades PreK-K)



Our Gracie Aunt by Jacqueline Woodson, 2002. Picture Book WOODSON
Initially reluctant to open the door to a social worker asking how long their mother has been gone, two children find comfort and safety at their Aunt Gracie's house. (Grades 2-4)

A Father Like That by Charlotte Zolotow, 2007 Picture Book ZOLOTOW
A boy growing up without a father lists the activities that he wishes they could share, and decides to grow up and become the type of father that he never had. (Grades K-2)

When I Miss You by Cornelia Maude Spelman, 2004 Picture Book SPELMAN
Various situations can cause a child to be separated from parents – for a short or long time. This book is a tool for caregivers to assist children of all backgrounds to share what it feels like to miss someone and problem-solve what to do while waiting to be reunited. (Grades PreK-1)

NONFICTION

Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights by Julie Nelson, 2007. j362.733 N427f
Acknowledges children's mixed feelings, reminds them that family problems were not their fault, and reassures them that they have memories from the past and the ability to build loving relationships in the future. (Grades K-3)

Kids Need to be Safe by Julie Nelson, 2005. j362.733 N427k
This book is designed to help foster children understand why they aren't currently with their biological parents, and offer them hope and reassurance. (Grades K-3)

Foster Parents by Rebecca Rissman, 2011 j362.733 R
Describes what foster families are and how they care for children who need help until they return to their original families or move on to a permanent family. (Grades K-2)

Goodbyes by Shelley Rotner, 2002 j395.4 R746G
Simple text, accompanied by photos, explains that sometimes people live in more than one home, and that goodbyes might not be forever, but might be just "bye for now." (Grades PreK-1)

Let's Talk About When Your Parent is in Jail by Maureen K. Wittbold, 1997 j362.7 W827L
Having a parent in jail can be one of the reasons that children enter foster care. This book answers many questions that children can be harboring. (Grades 1-3)

Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care by Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia K. Wright, 2002. j362.733 W677m
Provides a simple explanation for children in foster care about the processes impacting their lives, and acknowledges the questions for which there is no easy answer, such as: "When am I going home?" (Grades K-2)

Zachary's New Home by Geraldine and Paul Blomquist, 1993. J 362.734 B621Z
Acknowledges the feelings of frustration that can be experienced by children in foster care when they miss their biological parents, and how sometimes children react by acting out feelings of anger

at school. Zachary's foster parents help him to understand and work through his emotions, and provide a feeling of security in their home. (Grades K-2)