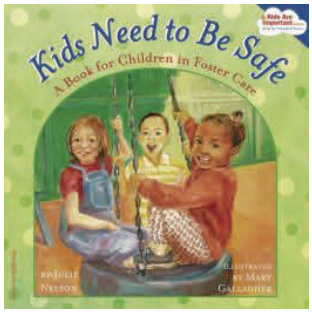
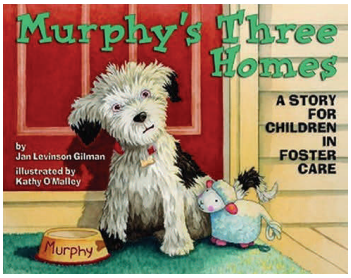
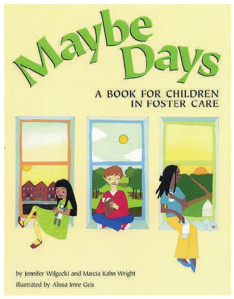
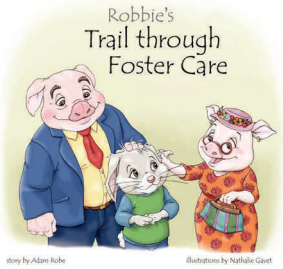
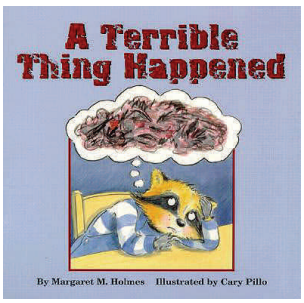
Foster Care & Adoption-Friendly Children's Books

	**Kids Need to Be Safe: A Book for Children in Foster Care** *Author: Julie Nelson*	Kids are important…They need safe places to live, and safe places to play. For some kids, this means living with foster parents. In simple words and full-color illustrations, this book explains why some kids move to foster homes, what foster parents do, and ways kids might feel during foster care. Children often believe they are in foster care because they are "bad." This book makes it clear that the troubles in their lives are not their fault; the message throughout is one of hope and support.
	**Murphy's Three Homes: A Story for Children in Foster Care** *Author: Jan Levinson Gilman*	Murphy is told he is a good luck dog. However, after going through two different homes and an animal shelter, Murphy starts to feel like a bad luck dog who nobody wants. *Murphy's Three Homes* follows this adorable pup through his placement in three new homes, as well as through his anxiety, self-doubt, and hope for a new, loving family. Finally, Murphy is placed in a caring foster home where he feels comfortable and valued. He learns that he is not a bad dog after all and can go back to being a playful puppy and a good luck dog!
	**Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care** *Author: Jennifer Wilgocki*	Will I live with my parents again? Will I stay with my foster parents forever? For children in foster care, the answer to many questions is often "maybe." *Maybe Days* addresses the questions, feelings, and concerns these children most often face. Honest and reassuring, it also provides basic information that children want and need to know, including the roles of various people in the foster care system and whom to ask for help.
	**Robbie's Trail through Foster Care** *Author: Adam Robe*	This book is an engaging story about Robbie Rabbit's journey into foster care. Robbie is removed from his birthmother's home and placed with foster parents. He meets his new foster family, learns what a foster kid is and experiences some commonplace behaviors as he adjusts to his new life. The ending is intentionally vague: Children don't know whether Robbie will end up with his mother or whether he'll ultimately be placed for adoption.
	**A Terrible Thing Happened** *Author: Margaret M. Holmes*	Sherman Smith saw the most terrible thing happen. At first he tried to forget about it, but soon something inside him started to bother him. He felt nervous for no reason. Sometimes his stomach hurt. He had bad dreams. And he started to feel angry and do mean things, which got him in trouble. Then he met Ms. Maple, who helped him talk about the terrible thing that he had tried to forget. Now Sherman is feeling much better. This gently told story is for children who have witnessed any kind of violent or traumatic episode.

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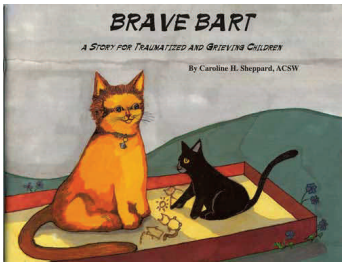
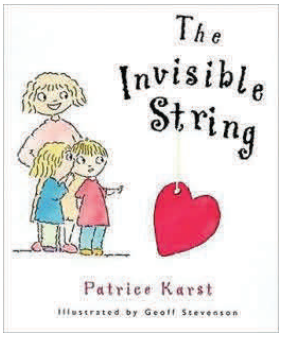
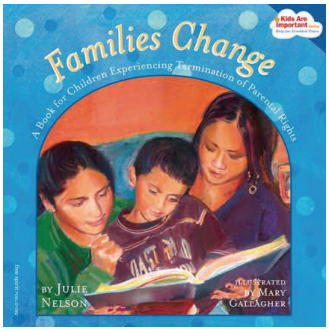
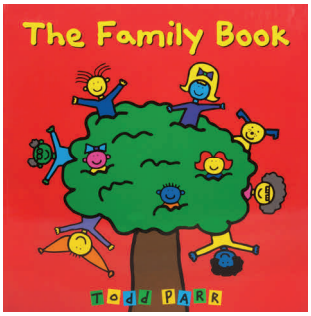
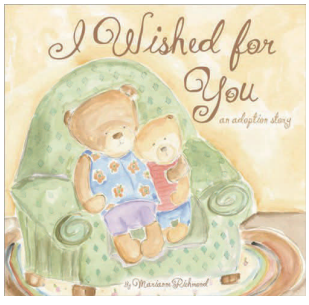
	**Brave Bart: A Story for Traumatized and Grieving Children** *Author: Caroline Sheppard*	Brave Bart is a kitty who had something bad, sad and scary happen to him. Helping Hannah, a neighborhood cat, helps Bart overcome his fears and become a survivor. Brave Bart normalizes the many trauma-reactions children experience.
	**The Invisible String** *Author: Patrice Karst*	The Invisible String is a very simple approach to overcoming the fear of loneliness or separation with an imaginative flair that children can easily identify with and remember. "People who love each other are always connected by a very special 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."
	**Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights** *Author: Julie Nelson*	All families change over time. Sometimes a baby is born, or a grown-up gets married. And sometimes a child gets a new foster parent or a new adopted mom or dad. Children need to know that when this happens, it's not their fault. They need to understand that they can remember and value their birth family and love their new family, too. Straightforward words and full-color illustrations offer hope and support for children facing or experiencing change.
	**The Family Book** *Author: Todd Parr*	The Family Book helps children and parents alike to celebrate the diversity of every family, and uses colorful images and humor to show that the unifying factor in every family is not appearances or personality traits, but love.
	**I Wished for You: An Adoption Story** *Author: Marianne Richmond*	I Wished for You: An Adoption Story follows a conversation between Barley Bear and his Mama as they curl up in their favorite cuddle spot and discuss how they became a family. Barley asks Mama the questions many adopted children have, and Mama lovingly answers them all.

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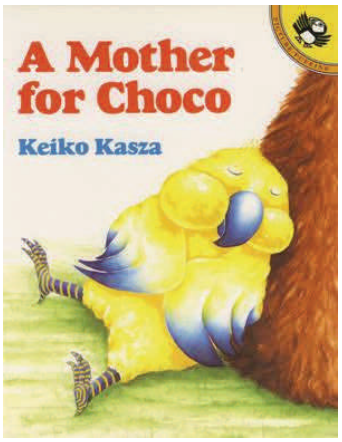
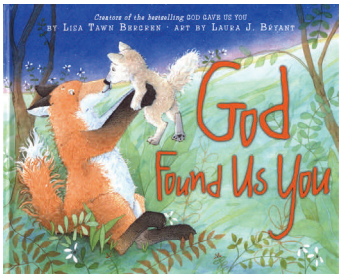
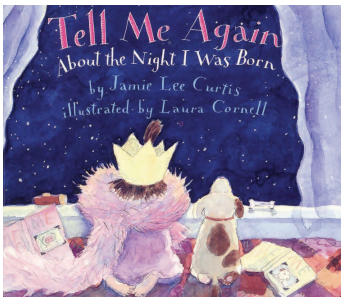
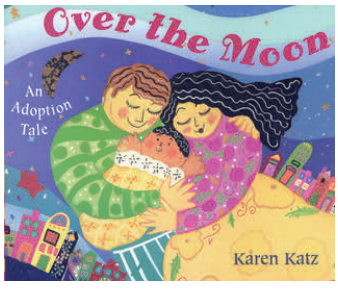
	**A Mother for Choco** *Author: Keiko Kasza*	Choco, a young bird living all alone in the forest, wants desperately to find his mother. At first he feels sure that she must look precisely like him, and searches for an older bird with the same yellow feathers, round cheeks, graceful wings, and striped feet. However, all the animals he meets differ greatly in appearance from him, and he must look deeper to find the true meaning of love and family. Mrs. Bear, who looks nothing like Choco, turns out to be the perfect mother for him. Unlike the other animals, she demonstrates tremendous affection for Choco, sharing hugs, songs, and laughter with him. A Mother for Choco teaches young adoptees that children do not need to resemble their parents to be loved by them.
	**God Found Us You** *Author: Lisa Tawn Bergren*	This book will resonate with many adopted children as well as their adoptive parents. The story is presented as a cherished and much-repeated bit of bedtime conversation between Mama Fox and Little Fox. Asked about "the day I came home," Mama talks about how long she dreamed about and waited for Little Fox. Little Fox asks, "You were lonely for me?" and Mama's affirmative response makes them cuddle all the closer: her pain is simultaneously shared and assuaged by Little Fox. Little Fox also asks about why he couldn't stay "with the mother who had me," and Mama responds in a warm and assuring tone.
	**Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born** *Author: Jamie Lee Curtis*	A young girl asks her parents to tell her again the cherished family story of her birth and adoption. The news arrives by telephone and the girl's adoptive parents rush to the hospital via plane, and any questions about the identity of the birth mother are brushed aside; she is simply "too young" to take care of her child. The new parents see their daughter in the nursery, howling wide-mouthed and oblivious to their pleased and loving gazes. Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born is a unique, exuberant story about adoption and about the importance of a loving family.
	**Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale** *Author: Karen Katz*	This heartfelt story of one adoptive family's beginnings starts on the night that a tiny baby is born. A man and woman each dream about a baby in a basket, surrounded by beautiful flowers and birds. The next day, they receive the exciting news that their baby has been born. They fly OVER THE MOON to a faraway place with palm trees and birds, violet flowers, and mountains, to meet their new daughter. A magical, reassuring story of international adoption told in words and pictures that are just right for the youngest child.

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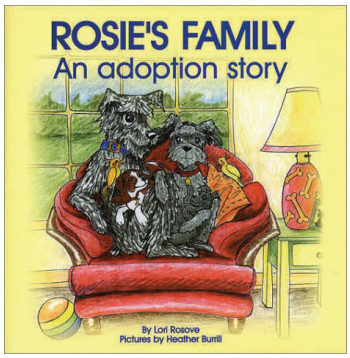
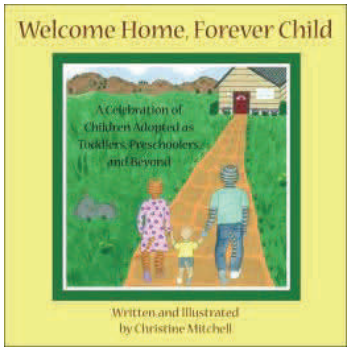
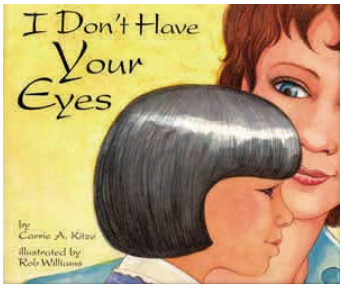
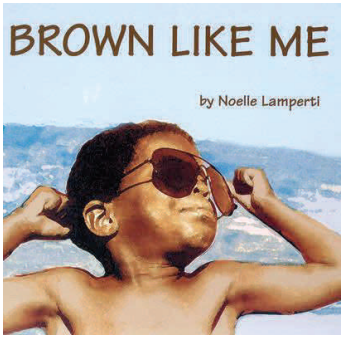
	**Rosie's Family: An Adoption Story** *Author: Lori Rosove*	Rosie's Family is a story about belonging in a family regardless of differences. Rosie is a beagle who was adopted by schnauzers. She feels different from the rest of her family, including her brother, who is the biological child of her parents, and sets forth many questions that children who were adopted may have.
	**Welcome Home, Forever Child: A Celebration of Children Adopted as Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Beyond** *Author: Christine Mitchell*	Finally....a book that genuinely celebrates a young child joining their forever family past infancy. While best suited to children ages two to eight, this gem will undoubtedly be enjoyed by older children as well. Most children's adoption books reflect infant adoptions, and may not be appropriate for the older child who spent their early years in foster care or an orphanage. Welcome Home, Forever Child is for families who adopted their child past the age of two. The book helps parents reassure children of their permanent place in the new family, and of how much they are wanted and loved.
	**I Don't Have Your Eyes** *Author: Carrie Kitze*	Family connections are vitally important to children as they begin to find their place in the world. For transracial and transcultural adoptees, domestic adoptees, and for 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. For the child who looks different from their parents for what ever reason...foster care, step parents, adoption. This multicultural book will empower your child to look beyond the physical features they have on the outside because inside our hearts, we are the same.
	**Brown Like Me** *Author: Noelle Lamperti*	This groundbreaking book speaks in simple straight-forward language to any child who is growing up in an environment where she/he feels different. This book will speak to any child trying to find herself reflected in the people and things around her. Brown Like Me is a fun and inventive way to encourage young children in multi-racial families to take pride in themselves and their appearance. The little girl, Noelle, is an African American adoptee raised in a Caucasian family. She identifies the color of brown in everything around her - brown leaves, brown sand, brown eyes, and brown skin - ending with the words, "I am strong brown." It is easy to reinforce this concept by finding brown with your child in their everyday world.

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