Understanding my LGBTIQA+ child



Queer Intentions: a (personal) journey through LGBTQ+ culture by Amelia Abraham

Today, the options and freedoms on offer to LGBTQ+ people living in the West are greater than ever before. But is same-sex marriage, improved media visibility and corporate endorsement all it's cracked up to be? At what cost does this acceptance come? And who is getting left behind, particularly in parts of the world where LGBTQ+ rights aren't so advanced? Combining intrepid journalism with her own personal experience, Amelia Abraham searches for the answers to these urgent challenges, as well as the broader question of what it means to be queer in 2019. With curiosity, good humour and disarming openness, Amelia takes the reader on a thought-provoking and entertaining journey.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, genderfluid, queer



Just a mum by Shelley Argent

Shelley Argent OAM has spent more than 20 years fighting to ensure both her sons, one gay, one straight, are considered equal in Australia. This is her autobiography.

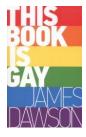
Identities covered: gay



Can I tell you about gender diversity? a guide for friends, family and professionals by CJ Atkinson

Meet Kit - a 12 year old undergoing medical transition - as he talks about gender and the different ways it can be explored. He explains what it is like to transition and how his friends, family and teachers can help through talking, listening and being proactive. While aimed at ages 11+, this book still serves as a good guide for parents of trans children.

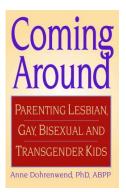
Identities covered: transgender, non-binary, genderqueer/genderfluid



This book is gay by James Dawson

Former PSHCE teacher and acclaimed YA author James Dawson gives an uncensored look at what it's like to grow up as LGBT. Including testimonials from people across the gender and sexual spectrums, this frank, funny, fully inclusive book explores everything anyone who ever dared to wonder wants to know - from sex to politics, how to pull, stereotypes, how to come-out and more.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender



Coming around: parenting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender kids by Anne Dohrenwend

Coming Around is a resource for understanding and coming to terms with a child's sexual orientation and maintaining a dialogue between parent and child. With compassion and wisdom, Dohrenwend addresses parents' fears regarding what to say and what not to say, bigotry and social and religious prejudice, the legal issues facing LGBT individuals and how to understand homophobia. Most important, she shares how to communicate that, whatever happens with a child's sexual or gender orientation, parents will never withdraw their love.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender



The gender creative child: pathways for nurturing and supporting children who live outside gender boxes by Diane Ehrensaft

Explanation of the interconnected effects of biology, nurture, and culture to explore why gender can be fluid, rather than binary. This book encourages caregivers to listen to their children, learn their particular needs and support their quest for a true gender self.

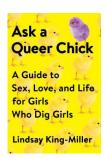
Identities covered: transgender, non-binary, genderqueer/fluid



Yay! You're gay! Now what? a gay guy's guide to life by Riyadh Khalaf

Yay! You're gay! Or maybe you're bi. Or maybe you just feel different... in time, that difference will become the greatest gift you could ask for. It will bring you love, a sense of identity, a new community, and eventually the freedom to be yourself. I promise! In this personal, heartfelt go-to guide for young queer guys, YouTuber and presenter Riyadh Khalaf shares frank advice about everything from coming out to relationships, as well as interviews with inspirational queer role models, and encouragement for times when you're feeling low. There's a support section for family and friends written by Riyadh's parents.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer



Ask a queer chick: a guide to sex, love, and life for girls who dig girls by Lindsay King-Miller

Ask a Queer Chick is a guide to sex, love, and life for lesbian, gay, bi, and queer women. Based on the popular advice column for Fusion.net, but featuring entirely new content, Ask a Queer Chick cuts through all the bizarre conditioning imparted by parents, romantic comedies, and 'the L word' to help queer readers and their straight/cis friends navigate this changing world. Includes a chapter specifically written for the straight people in the life of a queer person.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer



Helping your transgender teen: a guide for parents by Irwin Krieger

Going through puberty and adolescence presents unwelcome changes for many transgender youth. This book provides advice to parents of transgender teens to help them understand what their child is experiencing and feeling during this challenging time. Addressing common fears and concerns that parents of transgender teens share, the book guides them through steps they can take with their child, including advice on hormones and surgery and how to transition socially.

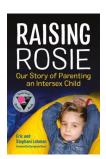
Identities covered: transgender, non-binary, genderqueer/genderfluid



Growing Up Queer in Australia edited by Benjamin Law

Compiled by celebrated author and journalist Benjamin Law, 'Growing Up Queer in Australia' assembles voices from across the spectrum of LGBTIQA+ identity. Spanning diverse places, eras, genders, ethnicities and experiences, these are the stories of growing up queer in Australia.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, transgender, queer



Raising Rosie: our story of parenting an intersex child by Eric & Stephani Lohman

When their daughter Rosie was born, Eric and Stephani Lohman found themselves thrust into a situation they were not prepared for. Born intersex - a term that describes people who are born with a variety of physical characteristics that do not fit neatly into traditional conceptions about male and female bodies - Rosie's parents were pressured to consent to normalizing surgery on Rosie, without being offered any alternatives despite their concerns.

Identities covered: intersex



Queerstories: reflections on lives well lived from some of Australia's finest LGBTQIA+ writers edited by Maeve Marsden

There's more to being queer than coming out and equal marriage. This exciting and contemporary collection contains stories that are as diverse as the LGBTIQ community from which they're drawn. From hilarious anecdotes of an awkward adolescence, to devastating reflections on HIV/AIDs and its impact on the community, and heartwarming stories of family acceptance and self-discovery. Not to mention, of course, the saucy, salacious and plain silly tales of a community often defined by what it gets up to in bed.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, asexual, intersex, queer



The ABC's of LGBT+ by Ashley Mardell

Shares in-depth definitions of LGBT+ terms and offers personal anecdotes from LGBT+ people. Especially useful if your child comes out as one of the lesser known identities.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, pansexual, asexual, genderqueer/genderfluid, non-binary, intersex



This is a book for parents of gay kids: a question & answer guide to everyday life by Dannielle Owens-Reid

Written in an accessible Q&A format, here, finally, is the go-to resource for parents hoping to understand and communicate with their gay child.

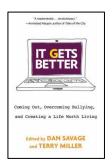
Identities covered: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender



Growing up queer: kids and the remaking of LGBTQ identity by Mary Robertson

Growing Up Queer explores the changing ways that young people are now becoming LGBT-identified in the U.S. Through interviews Mary Robertson focuses on the voices and stories of youths themselves in order to show how young people understand their sexual and gender identities, their interest in queer media, and the role that family plays in their lives.

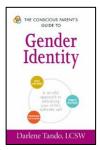
Identities covered: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer



It gets better: coming out, overcoming bullying, and creating a life worth living edited by Dan Savage

A collection of original essays and expanded testimonials written to teens from celebrities, political leaders, and everyday people. While many of these teens can't see a positive future for themselves, we can. We can show LGBT youth the kind of happiness, potential, and satisfaction their lives hold if they can just get through these early years.

Identities covered: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer



The conscious parent's guide to gender identity: a mindful approach to embracing your child's authentic self by Darlene Tando

If your child is questioning their gender identity, you may have questions of your own. The Conscious Parent's Guide to Gender Identity helps answer those questions, providing a relationship-oriented approach to supporting your child's journey.

Identities covered: transgender, non-binary, genderfluid/genderqueer

Fiction



Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens agenda by Becky Albertalli

Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. And worse still, so will the privacy of 'Blue', the pen name of the boy he's been emailing. With messy dynamics emerging in Simon's once tight-knit group of friends, and his email correspondence with Blue growing more flirtatious every day, Simon's life suddenly becomes just a little complicated. Now Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he's pushed out – without alienating his friends, compromising himself, or fumbling a shot at happiness with the most confusing, adorable guy he's never met.

Identities covered: gay



What if it's us by Becky Albertalli & Adam Silvera

Arthur is spending the summer in New York when he briefly meets Ben. When fate intervenes and they meet again later, it seems maybe it is meant to be. This delightful romantic comedy showcases the awkward amusement of teen dating, an interracial couple, supportive parents, and some awesome Broadway references. It's just a happy boy-meets-boy story that goes to show you that falling in love is a universal experience.

Identities covered: gay



The miseductation of Cameron Post by Emily M. Danforth

In the early 1990s, gay teenager Cameron Post rebels against her conservative Montana ranch town. Her family decides she needs to change her ways and she is sent to a gay conversion therapy center.

Identities covered: lesbian, gay



Symptoms of being human by Jeff Garvin

Riley is one of the few gender fluid characters in YA: some days Riley feels like a boy, some days Riley feels like a girl. Over the course of the book Riley starts an anonymous blog to talk about gender: it goes viral, but an unnamed person threatens to reveal Riley's real-life identity.

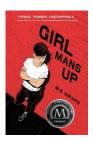
Identities covered: gender fluid



George by Alex Gino

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part... because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte, but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

Identities covered: transgender



Girl mans up by M-E Girard

Girl Mans Up is about a young woman named Penelope, aka Pen, who already knows she's a lesbian. She's a butch/masculine lesbian; her gender expression is in many ways the focus of the narrative, rather than her sexual orientation. What she works toward over the course of the book is demanding recognition and respect from everyone else around her for who she is, cutting out people who won't, and making new connections with people who will.

Identities covered: lesbign



None of the above by I.W. Gregorio

A groundbreaking story about a teenage girl who discovers she's intersex...and what happens when her secret is revealed to the entire school. Incredibly compelling and sensitively told, None of the Above is a thought-provoking novel that explores what it means to be a boy, a girl, or something in between.

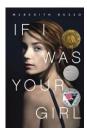
Identities covered: intersex



Two boys kissing by David Leviathan

Seventeen-year-olds Craig and Harry are trying to set a new Guinness World Record for kissing. Around them, Ryan and Avery are falling in love, Neil and Peter are falling out of love, and Cooper might be somewhere, but he is also, dangerously, nowhere. Narrated, Greek-chorus style, by the generation of gay men lost to AIDS, Two Boys Kissing is trademark Levithan: warm, sharp and real. It is also something new and completely extraordinary.

Identities covered: gay, transgender



If I was your girl by Meredith Russo

Amanda is dealing with all the excitement and anxiety of being the new girl in town. But she is keeping a secret. Amanda is transgender, and she has to decide if and when to share her past with her new friends and boyfriend. The book begins with Amanda's current life, but flashes back periodically to give glimpses of the path that brought her here. This lovely book gives you some insight into the day-to-day reality of Amanda's life and thoughts, letting us see what that journey might look like—for Amanda as well as her parents.

Identities covered: transgender



Aristotle and Dante discover the secrets of the universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz Aristotle and Dante meet at the swimming pool and seem at first to have nothing in common. But as they start to spend time together, a close and enduring friendship develops. The book examines the concepts of identity, friendship, and sexuality. It also illustrates the range of feelings that their parents experience as they come to understand their gay sons better. While there is some heavy subject matter, it is balanced with humour and heart.

Identities covered: gay



Are you a boy or are you a girl? By Sarah Savage

When Tiny moves to a new town, Buster, the class bully, wants to know if Tiny is a boy or a girl but others wonder why it matters to him.

Identities covered: transgender, nonbinary



Our own private universe by Robin Talley

15-year-old Aki Simon knows she's bisexual, even if so far it's been hypothetical. Along with her queer BFF Lori, Aki sets off on a summer trip where she meets the slightly older, more experienced Christa...

Identities covered: bisexual, lesbian, queer



Queens of geek by Jen Wilde

Australian friends Charlie, Taylor and Jamie are in San Diego for their first ever "SupaCon." Charlie likes to stand out. She's a vlogger/actress promoting her first movie, and this is her chance to show fans she's over her public breakup with costar Reese Ryan. When internet-famous cool-girl actress Alyssa Huntington arrives as a surprise guest, it seems Charlie's long-time crush on her isn't as one-sided as she thought. Taylor's brain is wired differently, making her fear change. When she hears about a fan contest for her favourite fandom, she starts to rethink her rules on playing it safe.

Identities covered: bisexual, queer

Want more? Try these:

These titles are available through Libraries Victoria and can be placed on hold via our catalogue.

Please note that during COVID19 library closures holds can not be placed on items belonging to other library services.

Non-fiction

- Queer: the ultimate LGBT guide for teens by Kathy Belge
- Trans mission: my quest to a beard by Alex Bertie
- Becoming an ally to the gender-expansive child: a guide for parents and carers by Anna Bianchi
- When your child is gay: what you need to know by Wesley C. Davidson & Jonathan L. Tobkes
- Gender born, gender made: raising healthy gender-nonconforming children by Diane Ehrensaft
- Trans bodies, trans selves: a resource for the transgender community by Laura Erickson-Schroth
- A quick and easy guide to queer & trans identities by Mady M. Giuliani
- Bold: stories from older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & intersex people by David Hardy & Elizabeth Whiley

- Always my child: a parent's guide to understanding your gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning son or daughter by Kevin Jennings
- Rainbow relatives: real-world stories and advice on how to talk to kids about LGBTQ+ families and friends by Sudi Karatas
- Beyond Magenta: transgender teens speak out by Susan Kuklin
- My child is gay: how parents react when they hear the news by Bryce McDougall
- What if? answers to questions about what it means to be gay and lesbian by Eric Marcus
- The letter Q: queer writers' notes to their younger selves by Sarah Moon & James Lecesne
- Becoming Nicole: the transformation of an American family by Amy Ellis Nutt
- Born this way: real stories of growing up gay by Paul Vitagliano

Fiction

- Alex as well by Alyssa Brugman
- Freakboy by Kristin Clark
- The pants project by Cat Clarke
- One in every crowd: stories by Ivan E. Coyote
- Beautiful music for ugly children by Kirstin Cronn-Mills
- I am Jazz by Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings
- A house for everyone: a story to help children learn about gender identity and gender expression by Jo Hirst
- Ramona Blue by Julie Murphy
- Juliet takes a breath by Gabby Rivera
- Empress of the world by Sara Ryan
- Golden boy: a novel by Abigail Tarttelin
- Pink by Lili Wilkinson