

# Children's Books

The Military Families Learning Network's Early Intervention team is developing Book Nooks, Guided Discussion Questions, and Author Interviews to accompany the children's books listed here with an asterisk (\*). These resources will equip providers with activities and ideas to extend social-emotional learning in young children as the result of shared book reading. If you wish to be notified when these resources have been finalized and are ready for use, please sign up for notifications at <https://bit.ly/2RXNW2q>.

| TITLE  | AUTHOR                  | SUMMARY   | TOPIC                            |
|--|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Critters Cry Too: Explaining Addiction to Children</b>                          | Anthony Curcio          | A picture book that explains addiction and some of the emotions around the disease in a way children can understand.  | Addiction in the Family          |
| <b>I Wish Daddy Didn't Drink So Much</b>   | Judith Vigna            | A young girl shares her feelings and frustrations about her father's behavior who is an alcoholic.  | Addiction in the Family          |
| <b>My Dad Loves Me, My Dad Has a Disease</b>                                       | Claudia Black           | Using simple words and children's original artwork this book provides an understanding of addiction as a disease and expresses the feelings some children may have. | Addiction in the Family          |
| <b>Just Really Joseph: A Children's Book About Adoptions, Identity, and Family</b> | Kayla Craig             | A day in the life of two brothers who look very different from each other provides a positive and affirming way of talking about race and transracial adoption.     | Adoptive Families                |
| <b>The Day We Met You</b>  | Phoebe Koehler          | In this book, a mom and dad recount the day they met the baby who would become their child through adoption.  | Adoptive Families                |
| <b>Through Moon and Stars and Night Skies</b>                                      | Ann Turner              | Told through the child's voice, this story conveys his travels from his home country to his second family in another place.   | Adoptive Families                |
| <b>Kemo Shark</b>  | Elizabeth King          | A comic book to help children understand the effects of chemotherapy on a caregiver with cancer.  | Caregiver with a Chronic Illness |
| <b>When Pete's Dad Got Sick</b>  | Kathleen Long Bostrom   | When Pete's dad gets sick, he no longer can play with Pete like he use to and it upsets him until he understands that his dad still loves him.                      | Caregiver with a Chronic Illness |
| <b>*Our Daddy Is Invincible!</b>   | Shannon Maxwell         | Based on the true story of a Wounded Warrior and American hero and his family.  | Caregiver Combat Injury          |
| <b>*Sparrow</b>  | Dorinda Silver Williams | When caregivers are injured, physically or emotionally, this book helps children find comfort and learn to cope through challenging times.                          | Caregiver Combat Injury          |

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|---|---------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <b>*Daddy's Home</b>                          | Carolina Nadel, MD  | A picture book that helps military parents explain the invisible wounds of war, including PTSD, to their small children.                 | Caregiver Combat Injury PTSD |
| <b>*Why is Dad So Mad?/Why is Mom So Mad?</b> | Seth Kastle         | A narrative story told from a family's point of view (parent and children) of a service member who struggles with PTSD and its symptoms. | Caregiver Combat Injury PTSD |
| <b>Mama Zooms</b>                             | Jane Cowen-Fletcher | A little boy tells about his experiences "zooming" on his mama's lap and how her wheelchair is a "zooming" machine.                      | Caregiver with a Disability  |
| <b>*Always By My Side</b>                     | Susan Kerner        | This is a story to help children understand that a father's love is forever, even if they are not present in their lives.                | Caregiver Loss               |
| <b>*Mama's Right Here</b>                     | Susan Kerner        | This is a story to help children cope and understand that a mother's love never disappears, even if they are not there.                  | Caregiver Loss               |
| <b>*The Invisible String</b>                  | Patrice Karst       | This book a reminder that no one is truly alone even though you can't see it, the connection is there.                                   | Caregiver Loss or Absence    |
| <b>The Kissing Hand</b>                       | Audrey Penn         | This is a book for any child confronted with a difficult situation and needing some reassurance.   | Caregiver Loss or Absence    |
| <b>*A Paper Hug</b>                           | Stephanie Skolmoski | A story about a little boy who figured out the best gift to give his dad who was leaving to serve his country, a paper hug.              | Deployment                   |
| <b>*Boo Boo Bear's Mission</b>                | Mary Linda Sather   | A story about a little girl who sends her bear, Boo Boo, to be with her dad when he is deployed.   | Deployment                   |
| <b>*My Father's Shirt</b>                     | Sally Huss          | The little boy in this story is sad when his father is deployed. His dad, however, knows what to do with the help of his favorite shirt. | Deployment                   |
| <b>*My Mother's Wings</b>                     | Sally Huss          | The boy in this story misses his pilot mother when she is deployed for duty. But she knows how to heal his heart.                        | Deployment                   |
| <b>*Night Catch</b>                           | Brenda Ehrmantraut  | A story that connects families while they are apart and offers comforting hope for their reunion.  | Deployment                   |

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| <b>*Countdown 'Til Daddy Comes Home</b>  | Kristin Ayyar           | A story of a boy whose father has deployed. The family creates routines to stay connected until he comes home again.   | Deployment and Reunion                |
| <b>*Home Again</b>   | Dorinda Silver Williams | Sharing this book can help a family readjust to life together after a long separation.   | Deployment and Reunion                |
| <b>*Lily Hates Goodbyes</b>  | Jerilyn Marler          | This book goes through the emotions of a little girl as she misses her daddy when he is deployed.  | Deployment and Reunion                |
| <b>*My Red Balloon</b>   | Eve Bunting             | This story is about a boy who has been waiting and preparing for his dad to come home. When the boy loses his red balloon he is afraid his dad will not recognize him.     | Deployment and Reunion                |
| <b>*The Wishing Tree</b>   | Mary Redman             | The little girl is sad when her dad has to leave for deployment. She wants to do something special each day for her dad until he comes home. She creates the wishing tree. | Deployment and Reunion                |
| <b>A Hero Lives in My Family: A Story for Kids of First Responders</b>                     | Susan Hunt, Ph.D.       | Children of first responders are encouraged to know that their caregiver saves, helps, and protects others, but loves taking care of them the most.                        | First Responder Families              |
| <b>My Dad is a Firefighter</b>   | Jaden Colbert           | Jaden learns all about his dad's scary, wonderful, and daring job.   | First Responder Families              |
| <b>My Mom the Police Officer</b>   | Isabel Girgis           | From the child's point of view this book follows a day in the life of their mom who is a police officer and how that makes the child feel.                                 | First Responder Families              |
| <b>I Call My Grandparents Mom and Dad</b>  | Carilyn Rouyer          | Kayden calls his grandparents mom and dad because they are the ones who raise him, and he shares his story to let others know they are not alone                           | Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren |
| <b>Our Grandfamily: A Flip-Sided Book About Grandchildren Being Raised By Grandparents</b> | Sandra Werle            | From the perspective of both children and grandparents, this story shares the different feelings, perspectives, and thoughts of those in "skip-generation" families.       | Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren |
| <b>Sometimes It's Grandmas and Grandpas: Not Mommies and Daddies</b>                       | Gayle Byrne             | From a child's point of view, this book centers around a nontraditional family of grandparents raising their grandchild  | Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren |

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|--|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Far Apart, Close in Heart: Being a Family When a Loved One is Incarcerated</b>    | Becky Birtha                         | This story helps children recognize the variety of emotions and experiences when a caregiver is in prison.  | Incarcerated Family Member        |
| <b>The Night Dad Went to Jail: What to Expect When Someone You Love Goes to Jail</b> | Melissa Higgins                      | Through the use of animal characters this book helps children understand the feelings surrounding this challenging circumstance.  | Incarcerated Family Member        |
| <b>What is Jail, Mommy?</b>  | Jackie A Stanglin                    | While a little girl's father has been incarcerated, she becomes frustrated when visiting a friend's house and begins to question what is jail.  | Incarcerated Family Member        |
| <b>Fly Away Home</b>   | Eve Bunting                          | A young boy who is homeless spots a trapped bird in the airport in which he and his father try to live without being noticed. He finds hope when the bird is finally freed that one day he might feel free too. | Income Instability & Homelessness |
| <b>The Lady in the Box</b>   | Ann McGovern                         | When Ben and Lizzie see the lady sleeping in the box they begin to sneak food and clothes out of their apartment to help her while she deals with homelessness.   | Income Instability & Homelessness |
| <b>Maddi's Fridge</b>  | Lois Brandt                          | Sofia discovers Maddi's secret about her empty fridge and she faces a tough decision to keep the secret or tell her parents, so they can help their friends.  | Income Instability & Homelessness |
| <b>Daddy, Papa, and Me</b>   | Lesléa Newman                        | Through the loving bond between caregivers, a family can do anything together.  | LGBTQ Families                    |
| <b>Mommy, Mama, and Me</b>   |                                      |   |                                   |
| <b>Keesha &amp; Her Two Moms Go Swimming</b>   | Monica Bey-Clarke & Cheril N. Clarke | Keesha goes swimming with her two moms and her friend Trevor and his two dads. This story promotes normalcy of everyday life in LGBT families.  | LGBTQ Families                    |
| <b>*Stella Brings the Family</b>   | Miriam B. Schiffer                   | When Stella's class has a Mother's Day party, she cannot decide which of her two dads to invite. She decides the party will be most fun with both of them and all her family.                                   | LGBTQ Families                    |
| <b>Papi's Gift</b>   | Karen Stanton                        | Graciela's dad leaves the family to pick work as a migrant farmer but she feels his love in many ways until he returns.   | Migrant Families                  |

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|---|----------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Radio Man</b>  | Arthur Dorros  | While traveling to different places, Diego takes his radio with him to learn about other people and places he goes.  | Migrant Families  |
| <b>Side by Side/Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez</b> | Monica Brown   | The story of the partnership between Huerta and Chavez to motivate migrant workers to advocate for their rights and make history.  | Migrant Families  |
| <b>*H is for Honor: A Military Family Alphabet</b>                            | Devin Scillian | This book explores the branches of the Armed Services and speaks from the heart about the honor, privileges and sacrifices of military families everywhere.                      | Military Families |
| <b>*Hero Mom/Hero Dad</b>   | Melinda Hardin | The moms/dads in the books are superheroes and are employed in a variety of field to help create a safer world.  | Military Families |
| <b>*Love Spots</b>  | Karen Panier   | Love spots is a story about a dad explaining to his children all of the love and memories that he sees in the spots on his uniform when he is far away when serving the country. | Military Families |