



IMPROVING OUTCOMES AFTER FOSTER CARE.

Foster Care Books for Children

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)

Be Who You Are by Todd Parr, 2016 Picture Book PARR
Moving from one placement to another often makes foster children feel like they need to prove themselves; they can also struggle with not looking like their foster family. This book offers a gentle message of reassurance. (Grades K-2)

Elliot by Julie Pearson, 2016 Picture Book PEARSON
An elephant child is removed from a struggling family, and placed in foster care. Over time, parental rights are terminated and Elliot is made eligible for adoption. (Grades K-2)

NONFICTION

Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights by Julie Nelson, 2007. j362.733 N427f
Reminds kids 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)

Alumni of Care Together Improving Outcomes Now

www.fosteractionohio.org

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)

JUVENILE FICTION

Pinballs by Betsy Byars, 2004.

Fiction BYARS

Three children from different backgrounds end up in a foster home together. At first, they don't like or trust each other, but they gradually become friends.

The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Patterson, 2016.

Fiction PATTERSON

An eleven year old girl who has been in the foster care system all her life sabotages one placement after another because she wants to be reunited with her biological mother.

The Tracy Beaker Trilogy by Jacqueline Wilson, 2012.

Fiction WILSON

Tracy lives in a children's home, but would like a real home one day, with a forever family. She's funny, feisty, and gets in trouble sometimes – but she is very lovable.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL FICTION

The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, 2015.

Fiction BRADLEY

Ada was born with a twisted foot. Her mother views her as an embarrassment, and hides her away in their apartment, while treating her poorly. When she and her brother end up being relocated due to World War II, Ada finds herself in a new home where she learns to read, ride a horse and that she is worthy of being loved. But what will happen when the war is over?

Patina by Jason Reynolds, 2017.

Fiction REYNOLDS

The Track series by Jason Reynolds features four middle-school kids who are chosen for an elite track team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics. Each of them have challenging home lives – but if they can overcome their challenges, they can prove to the world what winners they are.

In this installment in the series, Patina's mother lost her legs to “the sugar,” so she and her little sister live with a friend of the family who adopted them. Patina has a tough time fitting in at the fancy school that her adopted mother sends her to – but as long as she can look out for her younger sister, whose braids she takes special care of every Sunday, things will be hopefully be okay.