

# RAINBOW FAMILIES

## & Childcare



This resource has been designed to help childcare services support LGBTQ+ families. If you have never had a rainbow family attend your centre before, chances are that it's only a matter of time before one enrolls! Rainbow families are diverse. Some of our parents are lesbian or gay couples, solo parents, or families with more than two parents. Some of our parents are transgender (people whose gender identity or expression does not match the sex they were assigned at birth) or non-binary (people not identifying as exclusively male or exclusively female). How we create our families is also diverse—you might have a trans dad accessing your service who birthed his own child, or a trans mum who used her sperm to create her child.

RFQ encourages you to always ask new parents what their preferred pronouns are & to start with an open-ended question like 'tell me about your family'. Some rainbow families will want to tell you lots of details while others won't feel the need, or may need time to develop trust. The most important thing you can do is not make assumptions.

## **BOOK CORNER**

A simple & effective way to support rainbow families is to use images & materials that positively depict the diverse lives, cultures, & circumstances of those children & their families. Children's books provide the opportunity to share & discuss many aspects of individuality & diversity. Even if you don't have any rainbow families in your centre it's important that we work towards raising a new generation of children who are aware & accepting of difference.

Some RFQ favourites for under 5s:

Introducing Teddy (Jessica Walton & Dougal McPherson)

Love Makes a Family (Sophie Beer)

The Family Book (Todd Parr)

A Family is a Family is a Family (Sara O'Leary)

My Princess Boy (Cheryl Kilodavis)

## NAVIGATING A SPECIAL DAY

Mother's Day & Father's Day can be a difficult time for children in rainbow families, as well as for children with solo, absent, or deceased parents. Some childcare services have critically reflected on "what we've always done" & replaced Mother's Day & Father's Day with 'Love is Love' or 'Family' Day. This removes gender & is our personal favourite.

*"Our daycare was great - they made a present for both my partner & I on both Mother's & Father's day. We didn't have to raise the issue."*

Others include a gender-neutral 'Special Person' in all events to ensure that no child is excluded. Many kids with two mums or two dads produce two of whatever card or gift they are making in class, & others allocate one day to one parent, & the other day to the other parent. It's important to note that while some families might embrace the idea of substitutes (i.e. celebrating a grandfather/donor or other person on Father's Day) other families may feel that this diminishes the role of the parent/s already present & active in their child's life. Asking the family how they would best like to deal with these days is a great place to start in building a trusting relationship.

*"Our childcare abolished Mother's/Father's day as they believed it wasn't inclusive! They host 'special friends' day. As a kid with a dad who was locked up I hated Father's Day, & now as a rainbow family I hate it even more."*



## INCLUSIVE CHECKLIST

- Do you display LGBTQ+-inclusive signs? (a rainbow flag is easy & makes us feel fantastic!)
- Do your intake forms & correspondence use non-gendered inclusive language such as parent/s & carer/s instead of 'mum' & 'dad'?
- Do you include images & stories of same-sex parented families in your resources & newsletters?
- Do the children's books that you display & read represent different kinds of families?
- Do you have dolls & toys that represent a variety of different family structures & cultures?

*“ In our child's end of year scrapbook the educator had written 'to mum & dad'. It may have been a simple error but for us this error separates our child, makes her an 'other' rather than included... it makes an impact. ”*

- In the dress-up area are children encouraged to use all of the different props & clothes, regardless of their sex?
- Do you avoid gender stereotyping & separating children by sex?
- Do you talk about diverse families in circle time?
- Do you address name-calling & hurtful behaviours & teach positive social interactions?
- Do you change lyrics of children's songs to be more inclusive? eg: Old MacDonald might be a woman, & the family finger rhyme might have a papa & a dad etc.
- Are your staff confident in talking about different ways of conceiving (donors, surrogacy, IVF etc) & explaining different types of family configurations?
- Does your organisation offer LGBTQ+ awareness training to its employees?

## OUR FAMILY

Please either draw or write about your family here. You can include your pronouns, names you all use for each other, how you identify, or any relevant relationships with family/donors/etc.

For more information check out:

[www.auburn.wednet.edu/cms/lib/WA01001938/Centricity/Domain/2829/OpeningDoors2011.pdf](http://www.auburn.wednet.edu/cms/lib/WA01001938/Centricity/Domain/2829/OpeningDoors2011.pdf)

[www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/lgbt-children-books](http://www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/lgbt-children-books).

[www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/lgbt-resources.pdf](http://www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/lgbt-resources.pdf)

[www.familieslgbt.org/documents/pdf/CFH\\_MELS\\_Module5\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.familieslgbt.org/documents/pdf/CFH_MELS_Module5_ENG.pdf)

[www.humaneeducation.org/blog/2012/06/11/12-childrens-picture-books-that-challenge-traditional-gender-roles/](http://www.humaneeducation.org/blog/2012/06/11/12-childrens-picture-books-that-challenge-traditional-gender-roles/)

[www.jacquitomlins.com/outspoken-families-a-resource-kit-for-rainbow-families/](http://www.jacquitomlins.com/outspoken-families-a-resource-kit-for-rainbow-families/)

[www.resources.beststart.org/product/j14e-sexual-orientation-gender-diversity-families-manual/](http://www.resources.beststart.org/product/j14e-sexual-orientation-gender-diversity-families-manual/)

[www.returntooursenses.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Do-No-Harm-Lee-Klinger-Lesser.pdf](http://www.returntooursenses.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Do-No-Harm-Lee-Klinger-Lesser.pdf)

[www.welcomingschools.org/resources/school-tips/diverse-families-what/](http://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/school-tips/diverse-families-what/)

[www.welcomingschools.org/pages/a-note-on-mothers-fathers-day1/](http://www.welcomingschools.org/pages/a-note-on-mothers-fathers-day1/)



The logo features a stylized human figure composed of vertical bars in rainbow colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) of varying heights, with a small yellow dot above the tallest bar.

# rainbow

## families queensland

Rainbow Families Qld is an organisation that supports & advocates on behalf of LGBTQIAP+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, & pansexual) parents & carers and prospective parents & carers across Queensland. RFQ runs weekend monthly meet-ups, & weekday playgroups for families with kids under 5 across the state, as well as annual events.

For more information:

[www.rainbowfamiliesqld.org](http://www.rainbowfamiliesqld.org)

Email: [rainbow.families.qld@outlook.com](mailto:rainbow.families.qld@outlook.com)

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