

**RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONALS  
SEEKING TO CREATE SAFE & SUPPORTIVE  
ENVIRONMENTS FOR LGBT INDIVIDUALS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES**



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**BOOK LISTS**

Safe Schools Coalition website has book and video lists for elementary, middle, and high schools, for teachers, parents, and librarians. [www.safeschoolscoalition.org](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org)

An additional book list (not easily found from the home page) can be found at: [www.safeschoolscoalition.org/vancouverbcschoolboardrecommended-lgbtbooks02006.pdf](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/vancouverbcschoolboardrecommended-lgbtbooks02006.pdf)

The National Association for the Education of Young Children “Children’s Books that Break Gender Role Stereotypes” at [journal.naeyc.org/btj/200303/Books4Children.pdf](http://journal.naeyc.org/btj/200303/Books4Children.pdf)

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT LGBT; FAQs DOCUMENTS**

The American Psychological Association. Excellent FAQs documents written in accessible language, addressing common misunderstandings and concerns, in attractive, easy-to-read format. These include “Answers to your questions: for a better understanding of sexual orientation...”, “... about individuals with intersex conditions,” and “... about transgender individuals and gender identity” Go to [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org) and click on sexuality. The APA also has online a booklet “Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators, & School Personnel” at [www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/just-the-facts.aspx](http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/just-the-facts.aspx)

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has an online document “Pathways to Tolerance: Safe and Affirmative Schools for Sexual Minority Youth.”

**VISIBILITY** Sources for posters, traveling exhibits etc. that can be used to create visible signs of a supportive and welcoming environment for LGBT.

Love Makes a Family. Traveling exhibit of portraits of families headed by LGBT parents. Go to [www.familydiv.org/lovemakesafamily.php](http://www.familydiv.org/lovemakesafamily.php). There is also a “coffee-table style” book of the photos.

“That’s So Gay” exhibit about LGBT families by COLAGE. Downloadable. Go to <http://www.colage.org/ylap/> for information, downloads, and instructions. Some materials come on DVD.

“Respect All Families” posters can be downloaded in small size for free, ordered in full size. [www.COLAGE.org](http://www.COLAGE.org)

LGBT History month. Go to [www.glbthistorymonth.com](http://www.glbthistorymonth.com) for resources, information, posters, etc. to celebrate LGBT history month. Sponsored by Equality Forum <http://www.equalityforum.com/>

## ORGANIZATIONS

GLSEN. Dedicated to the goal of creating safe schools for all students regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. GLSEN central New Jersey chapter provides professional development, student assemblies, a wide range of support services for K-12 schools. <http://www.glsen.org/centralnj>

COLAGE. Children Of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere. National organization dedicated to children living in families parented by LGBT, raising awareness among the public, providing safe, supportive activities for children of LGBT, working for legal changes to promote school safety. [www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org) See “Tips for Making Classrooms Safer” for ideas to use in classrooms & other environments.

Rainbow Families of New Jersey. “Rainbow Families of New Jersey (RFNJ) is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c3) organization dedicated to serving the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) parents, their children, and those interested in becoming parents.” Organizes events for LGBT families, e.g., Halloween party, holiday parties, etc. [www.rainbowfamiliesnj.org](http://www.rainbowfamiliesnj.org)

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG). Support organization for family members of LGBT. [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).

Family Equality Council. Located in Boston, operating nationally. Website provides resources, information about policy/laws, updates on current issues.

The ACLU, Lambda Legal, the National Coalition for Lesbian Rights, etc. are also excellent sources of information about legal issues affecting LGBT families.

## LESSON PLANS FOR TEACHERS

The Safe Schools Coalition has lists of lesson plans, with links to the plans, from a variety of courses, catalogued online by grade level, curriculum subject area, etc. There is also a document “Learning about sexual diversity at school: What is age appropriate?”

Teaching Tolerance website includes many lesson plans pertaining to gender and sexual orientation diversity, from various sources. Includes “Gender doesn’t Limit You!”

“Music with a Message” lesson plan based on Melissa Etheridge’s powerful song “Scarecrow,” about the death of Matthew Shepard who was brutally murdered in Oct. 1998 because he was gay. Lesson plan written by NJ teacher, aligned with NJ Core Curriculum Content standards. Go to <http://www.rocklibrary.com/Education/LessonPlans/default.aspx>, click on “Music with a Message.” This lesson plan is an example of how lessons about sexual orientation and gender identity diversity can be about respect, *not sex*, and how they can be integrated across the curriculum, rather than limited to health classes.

The Seattle/King County website has an entire “comprehensive sexuality education curriculum” online, including lesson plans for range of grades. Go to [www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/.../flash.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/.../flash.aspx) Included is the “Family” lesson plan for grades 4-6 that uses the video “That’s a Family” The same lesson plan can be found in the KQED Education lesson plan bank; go to <http://uw.kqed.org/edresources/plan.php?id=55>