LGBTQ ISSUES

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Compiled by

Lorraine E. Fox, Ph.D.
(DrLorraineFox.com)
References and Resources

BOOKS AND ARTICLES


Included in the discussion is research on gay and lesbian youth which demonstrated the value of the internet as a space and place for experimentation and self-definition that is often difficult or dangerous in offline spaces.

California Safe Schools Coalition. (2004). *A safe place to learn: Consequences of harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender non-conformity and steps for making schools safer*. San Francisco: Author.


Reviews the issues facing transgender youth in foster care and makes recommendations for policy, practice, and advocacy to better meet their needs.


Desetta, A. (Ed.) (2003). *In the system and in the life: A guide for teens and staff to the gay experience in foster care.* Youth Communication/New York Center, Inc. New York, NY

A collection of 25 stories by gay teens, straight teens, and staff about the foster care system and the relationship between teens, foster parents, and foster care staff. Also includes myths and stereotypes of being gay and HIV-positive, and suggestions for using stories in staff trainings.
Family Acceptance Project: San Francisco State University (2011).

The project has generated a wealth of new data over the past decade on the impact of family acceptance and rejection on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children and youth. The findings of the research are dramatic, clear, and have profound implications for virtually every public policy issue affecting LGBT youth and their families.


A report that chronicles the experiences of LGBT youth in the New York City juvenile justice system, identifies the main problems, and makes recommendations for improvement. It uses a combination of social science research and personal interviews with juvenile justice professionals and LGBT youth to reveal the discrimination and bias against LGBT youth in the system.


Comprehensive view of adolescent sexuality and sexual health, written for professionals by two highly credentialed nurses. Sexual development in the male and female; the adolescent brain and cognitive development; adolescent emotional development and romantic attachments; redefining culture in the context of adolescent sexuality; legal issues in the reproductive health care of adolescents; complexities of sexual decision making in adolescence; sexuality and sexual behaviors in adolescence; oral sex and adolescents; developing trust and sensitivity – the adolescent reproductive health visit; contraception; emergency contraception; teen pregnancy; sexually transmitted infections; nonconsensual sex; adolescents with chronic illnesses; sexuality issues for adolescents with physical and/or developmental disabilities; providing health care to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adolescents; teens’ perspectives of sex and sexuality.


Survey includes responses from 8,584 students between 13 and 20. Students were from all 50 states and the District of Columbia and from 3,224 unique school districts.


Ground breaking survey of more than 10,000 LGBT-identified youth ages 13-17. It provides a stark picture of the difficulties they face.


A report that documents the devastating impact of harassment on LGBT youth in U.S. public schools who are offered no protection by school officials, and makes detailed recommendations for legislators at all levels on how to deal with this discrimination. The report shows that persistent harassment of LGBT youth by their peers often leads to depression, low academic achievement, withdrawal from school, and sometimes suicide.


Drawing broadly on empirical and legal research, as well as personal experience, this book offers vital and helpful information, resources, and advice for students, educators, parents, and teachers in creating and supporting gay-straight alliances. GSA’s provide a safe place for students to discuss issues, meet others, and get support from others who care.


Mallon, Gerald P. (1997, Fall). When schools are not safe places: Reconnecting gay and lesbian young people to schools. *National Educational Service.*

This article presents an eight-week peer group counseling intervention that has been proven to help elementary-age children learn the skills they need to take responsibility for solving their interpersonal problems and to self-monitor the effectiveness of their solutions.

This article describes a model for supporting the development of LGB youth in out-of-home care. The model is based on the premise that the most effective way to help LGB youth is to provide them with the same services that all adolescents need. The goal is positive youth development, and five key elements to achieving that goal are identified: creation of programs tailored to meet clients’ needs; participation of youth in their own care; respect for the dignity and worth of all people; proper placement in a safe environment; and partnerships among youth, family, service providers, and community.


Explores issues of sexual orientation as they pertain to children, youth and families. Critiques the effects of current child welfare practices and policies, documenting the ways lesbian and gay youth have been marginalized and mistreated due to heterocentrism and homophobia. Takes a comprehensive, family-oriented approach to addressing the problems in foster homes, adoptions, and residential placements.


Provides suggestions, through personal narratives and case studies, to help social workers and families understand the reality of transgender people’s lives.


Provides basic answers to the questions family, friends, and acquaintances ask about someone they know first comes out.


Author contends that sexual identity issues related to homosexuality are often of significant importance to adolescents in care. Sexual abuse histories, a possible over-representation of gay and lesbian adolescents in care and the dynamics of the group living environment all contribute to heighten the saliency. Policy and practice recommendations are offered for affirmatively handling these issues.


A practitioner guide offering a comprehensive framework for treating adolescent problems in the family context. Vivid examples and session transcripts illustrate specific strategies for treatment: attachment issues, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, defiance, underachievement, racial and ethnic identity, lesbian, gay and bisexual youth, and other frequently encountered challenges.


A description of the Safe Schools Program in Massachusetts that details its activities, involvement in schools, and success in creating safe and welcoming schools for gay and lesbian youth. Describes the program’s strategies for changing school environments, including recognizing the central role of students, collecting and using data effectively, building on the core values of schools, knowing the laws and policies that support equity, developing a broad base of support, and creating visibility.


Hands-on guide for providing health care and mental health care to lesbian and gay youth and young adults. Provides specific guidelines for care and for addressing sexual behavior, substance abuse, and suicide, among other issues. Provides an extensive discussion of the social and health effects of stigmatized identity in the context of adolescent development.


Shapiro. (2003). *Always my child: Understanding your gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning son or daughter.*

Shore, D. and Gochros, H. *Sexual problems of adolescents in institutions* Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas


This article uses narratives of lesbian and gay youths’ experiences after coming out in order to emphasize the societal epidemic of excluding, ignoring, abusing, and out-casting the LGBT community from the mainstream. Points out ever-increasing violence directed at gays and lesbians, including schools, foster homes, group homes, and detention centers. Makes the case for gay-affirming foster care facilities.

A report that identifies the problems of LGBT youth in the foster care system based on 14 states policies and urges foster care agencies to take steps to better serve their LGBT clients.


This article argues for a re-conceptualization of service delivery that begins with a recognition of the unique developmental challenges facing sexual minority youths and proceeds to an examination of the systemic obstacles to providing competent services in their behalf. An ecological perspective informs the connections between developmental considerations, service issues, and human rights questions.


Discusses the need for policies and services that are effective in helping “queer” youth develop a healthy self-identity. Topics include: why LGBT youth often enter the child welfare system; the inability of the system to address their needs; how homophobia impedes the creation of policies and programs that meet their needs; and the need for community based institutions and services, public education, and political mobilization to fully integrate LGBT youth into society.


Available online. Chapters include: 1) LGBT youth in out-of-home care: Self-awareness of sexual orientation and gender identity; pathways of LGBT youth into State care; mistreatment of LGBT youth in out-of-home care; 2) Creating an inclusive organizational culture; Adopting written non-discrimination policies; Providing training; 3) A family-centered approach to serving LGBT youth; 4) Promoting positive adolescent development. Supporting the positive development and expression of sexual orientation; Supporting the positive development and expression of gender identity; Prohibiting practices that pathologize, punish, or criminalize LGBT youth; Providing positive social and recreational outlets; 5) Collecting and managing confidential information; 6) Ensuring appropriate homes for LGBT youth; 7) LGBT youth in institutional settings. Housing and classification of LGBT youth; Protecting the safety and well-being of transgender youth; Programmatic protections. 8) Providing appropriate health, mental health, and education services to LGBT youth; Glossary.


Book contains a rich collection of case studies as well as quantitative summaries of existing data.

**Training resources**

DVD Curriculum. *It’s Elementary – Talking About Gay Issues in School.* LGBT Issues and Safe Schools. info@respectforall.org. 800-405-3322


*Myths and Misconceptions of LGBTQ Youth in Care: An Overview of AB 458.* Contact Cherie Schroeder at cherie@yolofostercare.com.
**Resources for young people**

DVD. *That’s a Family.* info@respectforall.org. 800-405-3322

A film for kids about family diversity, guardianship, divorce, lesbian and gay adoption.

SEX, ETC.

A leader in teen-to-teen sexuality education. An award winning national newsletter and website that is written by teens, for teens, on teen sexual health issues. It is the major component of the National Teen-to-Teen Sexuality Education Project developed by the Network for Family Life Education, based at the Center for Applied Psychology at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Youth Communication
224 West 29th Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-279-0708
Fax: 212-279-8856
www.youthcomm.org

Catalogue updated frequently. Contains many resources on resilience, sexual abuse, sex and relationships, sex and self image for direct work with youth. Resource on Gay Teens also available with content written by gay and straight teens. Content of all resources written by youth. Sample below:

*Out with it: gay and straight teens write about homosexuality.* ($13.95)

Break stereotypes and provide support with an unflinching look at gay life from a teen’s perspective. With a focus on urban youth, this book includes several heterosexual teens transformative experiences with gay peers.

*Tough choices: Foster teens write about sex.* ($12)

Encourages teens in care to make good choices about sex and intimacy. Many youth in care have suffered from neglect and abuse, complicating decision-making about intimacy. The teens in these stories describe their choices – and the consequences.
In the system and in the life: A guide to the gay experience in foster care. ($16.95)

The special challenges of coming out while in foster care are explored through stories by gay and straight teens and staff. Activities with every story make this book ideal for staff training or teen workshops.

YouthResource-A Project of Advocates for Youth
http://www.youthresource.com/index.html

A website by and for LGBTQ young people which takes a holistic approach to sexual health exploring issues of concern to LGBTQ youth. The site provides information on health, advocacy, and queer living – as well as art, short stories, and poems by the youth.

Organizations

The Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services, Inc. (GLASS)
650 N. Robertson Blvd., West Hollywood, CA (310-358-8727)
www.glassla.org

LifeWorks Mentoring
9021 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood, CA (310-724-6300)
Weekly social meetings; social events; peer mentoring.

The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center
1625 Schrader Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90028 (323-993-7400)
Legal services, support groups, case management

The Los Angeles Gender Center
1923 ½ Westwood Blvd., Westwood, CA (310-475-8880)
National Center for Lesbian Rights: 1-800-528-6257
Available to help all whether lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning

National Center for Lesbian Rights NCLR
870 Market Street, San Francisco (415-392-6257x308)

Southern Poverty Law Center. Teaching Tolerance.org.

Many resources related to discrimination, including LGBT.
VanNess House  
1136 North LaBrea, West Hollywood, CA (323-463-4266)  
Support and social groups, workshops, services and referrals

For Youth in Care: State Ombudsperson: 1-877-846-16002

**Hotlines**

National Youth Advocacy Coalition  
1-800-541-6922

GLBT National Youth Talkline  
1-800-246-PRIDE (7743)

The Gay & Lesbian National Hotline  
1-888-843-4564

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
212-727-0135

The Trevor Project (24-hour suicide prevention)  
866-4U-TREVOR

**For young people struggling with their religion and their sexuality**


The author is a Biblical scholar who examines Bible passages often used to condemn homosexuality, explaining how and why they have been misinterpreted. Endorsed by John S. Spong, the Episcopal Bishop of Newark, NJ.


Biblical scholar and Professor at Union Theological Seminary, who discusses what the New Testament does or does not say about homosexuality.

[http://christiangays.com](http://christiangays.com)
Look in the phone book for churches that designate themselves as:
  - Open and Affirming (United Church of Christ)
  - Welcoming Congregations (usually Methodist)

**Churches and Synagogues who are openly welcoming to GLBTQ people**

All Saints Episcopal Church
132 North Euclid Avenue, Pasadena, CA (626-796-1172)
Gay, lesbian and transgender people welcome

Beth Chayim Chadashim
6000 West Pico Boulevard, L.A. (323-931-7023)
Inclusive community

Congregation Kol Ami
1200 N. LaBrea, West Hollywood, CA (323-606-0996)
Welcoming for Jews of diverse backgrounds and lifestyles

Irvine United Congregational Church
4915 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA (949-733-0220)
Open and Affirming Church

Metropolitan Community Church
8714 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069 (310-854-9110)
LGBT congregation; Bilingual services.

Parkside Community Church
5700 S. Land Park, Sacramento (916-421-0492)
Open and Affirming Church

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Carlsbad
Pilgrim Congregational Church, Hemet
United Methodist
6817 Franklin Avenue, Hollywood, CA (323-874-2104) and
1296 N. Fairfax Avenue, West Hollywood (323-656-5536)
Welcoming congregation with ongoing supportive services

University Synagogue
3400 Michelson, Irvine, CA (949-553-3535)

West Hollywood Presbyterian Church
7350 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles (323-874-6646)
Teaching progressive spiritual values and celebrating diversity

Other internet resources

Brevity
http://www.ncfcj.org/content/blogcategory/69/440

A weekly publication of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCGCJ) which often includes information and news about LGBTQ youth that may be of interest to their care providers. NCJFC keeps an archive of these newsletters that includes an extensive collection of information about LGBTQ youth in the system.

Campaign to End Homophobia
www.endhomophobia.org

Child Welfare League of America (CLWA)
http://cwla.org/programs/culture/glbtq.htm

CWLA’s Sexual Orientation/LGBTQ Youth Issues Program, in partnership with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, works to create a network of resources that address the needs of LGBTQ youth in the child welfare system in a comprehensive way. This site provides information and publications primarily aimed at parents, foster care providers, and policy-makers.

Family Acceptance Private Family’s Website
www.familyacceptance.com
www.lambdalegal.org/take-action/tool-kits/getting-down-to-basics

A new online toolkit provides information to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth in the foster care system receive the support and services they need and deserve. Also offers guidance on a variety of issues that affect this population of young people and the organizations that serve them.

National Center on Sexual Behavior and Youth. www.ncsby.org

**Many** wonderful resources. The website provides information about training for children/youth with sexual problems and has information for the public about the realities of sexual behavior problems in children. The site answers frequently asked questions about youth who engage in inappropriate sexual behavior and their treatment.

Two comprehensive Treatment Manuals are available **free** from the site.

National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC)
http://www.nyacyouth.org

The only national organization focused solely on improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth through advocacy, education and information. Their website offers resources for LGBTQ youth, educators, and care providers who want to take action and to create change. The section on Youth Connections offers information on support groups and hotlines, as well as family, school, health and legal resources. The website has an extensive searchable database of LGBTQ youth resources.

OutProud: www.outproud.org

http://www. thinkb4youspeak.com

many resources
For Parents of LGBTQ young people

Film: Always My Child: A Parent’s Guide to Understanding Your Gay Child
www.amazon.com/dp0743226496

Family Videos/Family Acceptance Project
Familyproject.sfsu.edu/family-videos

Series helping diverse families understand how to support their LGBT children

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
http://www.pflag.org

Working with parents, providing monthly support meetings and other activities to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families, and friends.


Written by a father about his own experience with his daughter’s coming out process, this book addresses his movement from grief to acceptance to advocacy for his daughter. The book offers insight from political and religious leaders, as well as organizations like PFLAG.


The author is a respected gay psychologist with extensive clinical experience, and offers comfort and advice to parents of lesbian and gay children and teens.


Offers myth-busting information to help parents confront their previous misconceptions of homosexuality and then presents ways for them to move beyond acceptance to advocacy for their gay or lesbian child.

Compiles parents’ own stories of gradually understanding their children’s coming out experiences. The stories represent both the difficulties and the joys parents experience in coming to terms with their child’s identity.

**For LGBTQ Parents**

Family Pride Coalition (www.familypride.org)

Works national to advance the well-being of LGBT parents and their families.


**FILMS**

*Always My Son*

feminist-ing.com/2011/03/15/short-documentary

Chronicles the transformation of Ed from a self-described “macho Mexican” to co-founder of his town’s first LGBT youth support group

*Breaking the Silence: LGBTQ Foster Youth Tell Their Stories.* DVD and Resource CD containing more than 25 useful and informative training tools and resources. National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Ten short digital stories of both the successes and failures of the foster care system for this population. In each three-minute standalone story, the youth share:

- What it was like for them to come out in the system
- How important it was for them to find supportive allies
- How they have come to understand their multiple identities
- The effects of rejection by family and foster parents
- The challenges of transitioning gender while in state custody
- What providers need to know about LGBTQ youth
- Why they are activists working for social change

Offers a guide to creating LGBTQ-safe classrooms. It highlights the damage done to all students by harassment and bullying of LGBTQ students. It also offers concrete ideas on how to begin discussing the issue of sexuality, as well as addressing the problems faced by LGBTQ people, with dramatizations of anti-LGBTQ harassment in schools and panel discussions among teens about their experiences. The video comes with a teachers guide.


This is a 28 minute short film that shows residents at Green Chimneys Gramercy Residence, a group home for LGBTQ foster youth ages 15-21. The youth document their lives and the discrimination they face inside the foster care system through interviews, narratives and testimonials.


Highlights the approaches teachers across the country are using to address homosexuality and diversity in their classrooms. Features teachers in elementary classrooms who are challenging the current political climate’s attempts to censor such a dialogue. The film focuses on students’ points-of-view and their reactions to the discussions. Includes a helpful viewing and discussion guide.


This short documentary film follows the life of Kade Farlow Collins, a FTM (female to male) transgender youth. It highlights the daily issues Kade faces with friends, peers, and family and provides great first person perspectives on issues facing transgender youth.

**Think b4 you speak.**
www.thinkb4youspeak.com

Presented by Ellen DeGeneres, this short film uses diary entries to follow 13-year old Trevor, who struggles to come to terms with his sexuality. Trevor is harassed at school for being gay and ultimately attempts suicide. Luckily, someone comes along to support Trevor, offering him acceptance and self-understanding. Academy Award winner.

*Youth OUTLoud! Addressing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth Issues in Our Schools.* GLSEN/Sun & Moon Vision Productions.  
[http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/booklink/record/1513.html](http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/booklink/record/1513.html).

This documentary highlights the inspiring stories of several LGBTQ youth working to create and implement policies to make their schools – and their school districts – safer places for all.