

Abuse and Complex Living Situations

Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

- Hands Are Not for Hitting** by Martine Agassi, 2002. Picture Book AGASSI
Children who have been abused or witnessed abuse can mimic what they have seen. This book offers alternative solutions for dealing with anger and frustration. (Grades PreK-K)
- Far Apart, Close in Heart** by Becky Birtha, 2017. Picture Book BIRTHE
Children who have a parent in prison express their feelings, and how they stay in touch through writing letters and visits. (Grades K-3)
- Angryman** by Gro Dahle, 2019. Picture Book DAHLE
A young boy named Boj has a father who can be very angry and violent. When he is, no one is safe. Until Boj does something very powerful—he tells a trusted adult. (Grades 3-5)
- The Big Bad Wolf in My House** by Valérie Fontaine, 2021. Picture Book FONTAINE
A young girl describes what it's like when her mom's new friend comes to stay. In the midst of the abuse the mother and daughter pair are able to cling to hope and safety. (Grades PreK-4)
- Sad the Dog** by Sandy Fussell, 2015. Picture Book FUSSELL
“Sad” the dog’s humans care for his basic needs, but often yell and criticize him. When his humans move away without him he is heartbroken until a new family makes his life complete. (Grades 1-4)
- Still a Family** by Barbara Reeves Sturgis, 2017. Picture Book REEVES STURGIS
A girl and her mother stay at the family business shelter, and her father stays at the men’s shelter. But they still find ways to come together as a family. (Grades PreK-2)

JUVENILE BOOKS

- Louisiana’s Way Home** by Kate DiCamillo, 2018. Fiction DICAMILLO
Louisiana’s granny wakes her in the middle of the night and says they have to leave home immediately. Alone and stranded in a small town, she looks for a place to call home. (Grades 4-6)
- Chirp** by Kate Messner, 2020. Fiction MESSNER
A young gymnast hides a sexual abuse secret as she makes friends in a new town.
- Stay** by Bobbie Pyron, 2019. Fiction PYRON
Piper’s family moves to a homeless shelter in a new city where she must learn to trust new friends to help her save a beloved dog, Baby, from being taken from her human. (Grades 3-7)
- Ghost** by Jason Reynolds, 2016. Fiction REYNOLDS
Gifted runner Ghost finds his goals are challenged by his past with a violent father. (Grades 4-9)
- Genesis Begins Again** by Alicia D. Williams, 2019. Fiction WILLIAMS
Genesis’s family struggles to maintain housing, due to her father’s gambling and alcohol abuse. A teacher uncovers a hidden talent in Genesis, and helps her learn to love herself. (Grades 6-9)

NON-FICTION

- Once I Was Very Very Scared** by Chandra Ghosh Ippen, 2017. J 155.41246 I64o
A group of animals share their experiences in being very scared, and how they reacted. They share both their initial reaction, and how they learned coping skills from grown-ups. (PreK-2)
- Making it Better: Activities for Children Living in a Stressful World** J 372.21 O28m2
by Barabara Oehlberg, 2014.
Activities to help children process and heal from trauma-informed life events. (Grades PreK-3)
- Free Lunch** by Rex Ogle, 2019. J B O351f
Recounting his lived experiences from sixth grade, Ogle chronicles the brutal consequences of poverty, violence and abuse inflicted on himself and his family. (Grades 5-8)
- Let's Talk about Body Boundaries, Consent and Respect** J 362.76 S215L
by Jayneed Sanders, 2018
Teaches the concepts of body ownership and appropriate body boundaries, respectful relationships, feelings and emotions, choices and recognizing bullying behaviors. (PreK-4)

TEEN FICTION

- Black Girl Unlimited** by Echo Brown, 2020. Fiction BROWN
Believing that she and her mother are wizards helps Echo cope with poverty, hunger, her mother's drug abuse, and much more. (Grades 9-12)
- If These Wings Could Fly** by Kyrie McCauley, 2020. Fiction MCCAULEY
Leighton struggles between her promise to watch over her sisters and her desperation to flee her father's on-going abusive behavior. (Grades 8-12)
- Long Way Down** by Jason Reynolds, 2017 Fiction REYNOLDS
Fifteen-year-old Will is tempted to avenge the shooting death of his brother—can a series of elevator interactions change his mind? (Grades 9-12)

TEEN NON-FICTION

- You Too?** by Janet Gurtler, editor, 2020. T 362.88 Y67
No young person should be subject to sexual assault or made to feel unsafe. This collection of personal stories reminds readers to be strong and never be silenced by abuse. (Grades 8-12)
- Hey, Kiddo** by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, 2018. T 741.5 K93h
A graphic novel about the author's experience growing up in a family grappling with addiction, finding people who helped him get through it, and how his art helped him survive. (Grades 8-12)

These items can be borrowed by visiting your nearest Columbus Metropolitan Library location.
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