Abuse and Complex Living Situations
Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

**Hands Are Not for Hitting** by Martine Agassi, 2002
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.
Children who have a parent in prison express their feelings, and how they stay in touch through letters and visits. (Grades K-3)

**Sad the Dog** by Sandy Fussell, 2015.
“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)

**The Magic Beads** by Susin Neilson-Fernlund, 2007
When Lily thinks about what to bring for Show and Tell, she becomes nervous since Lily and her mother currently stay in a homeless shelter, and she doesn’t know what to share. (Grades 1-4)

**Still a Family** by Barbara Reeves Stugis, 2017
A girl and her mother stay at the family homeless 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 FICTION

**Almost Home** by Joan Bauer, 2012.
Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness. (Grades 5-8)

Nine year old Ada lives in London with her abusive mother, until she and her younger brother are are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II. (Grades 4-9)

**Louisiana’s Way Home** by Kate DiCamillo, 2018
Louisiana’s granny wakes her in the middle of the night and says they have to leave home immediately. She finds herself alone and stranded in a small town, looking for a place to call home. (Grades 4-6)

**Ghost** by Jason Reynolds, 2016.
Aspiring to be the fastest sprinter on his middle school’s track team, gifted runner Ghost finds his goal challenged by a tragic past with a violent father. (Grades 4-9)
Hope in the Holler by Lisa Lewis Tyre, 2019

After losing her mother, Wavie B. is sent to live with an aunt she’s never met in a rundown neighborhood referred to as Convict Holler. (Grades 4-8)

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams, 2019.

Genesis and her family struggle to maintain stable housing, due to her father’s gambling and excessive drinking. A teacher at her new school uncovers a talent that Genesis didn’t know she had, and helps her learn to love herself. (Grades 6-9)

TEEN FICTION

Tyrell by Coe Booth, 2006.

Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid ending up in jail like his father. (Grades 9-12)

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds, 2017

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)

NON FICTION


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.

My Body Belongs to Me from My Head to My Toes by Connie Morby, 2014 j362.76 M995

Children learn about the differences between good and bad touching, how to tell a person to stop touching, and how to tell a trusted adult if inappropriate touch has happened. (Grades PreK-2)

That Uh-oh Feeling by Kathryn Cole, 2016. J362.76 C689t

Claire’s becomes uncomfortable when her soccer coach begins to “tickle” her and tells her to keep it a secret. Claire tells her parents after she learns this is inappropriate adult behavior. (Grades 1-4)

Making it Better by Barbara Oehlberg, 2014. j372.21 O28m2

This book deals with feelings and behaviors associated with a "trauma-informed" early childhood and includes activities to help children process stressful events, such as community and family violence and complicated family dynamics. (Grades PreK-3)

What to Do When You Worry Too Much by Dawn Huebner, 2006. j618.928522 H887w

Teaches school-age children cognitive-behavioral techniques to reduce and overcome anxiety, fears, and worry, through writing and drawing activities and self-help exercises and strategies. Includes introduction for parents. (Grades 1-6)