

Foster Care

Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

Just Like a Mama by Alice Faye Duncan, 2020 Picture Book DUNCAN
Carol hopes one day to live with her biological parents. But, for now, she lives with Mama Rose who fills the the role of mother in her life. (Grades PreK-2)

Murphy's Three Homes by Jan Levinson Gilman, 2008 Picture Book GILMAN
A puppy who moves from home to home learns that it is not his fault, and finds a family who will love him even if he struggles to obey their rules. (Grades PreK-1)

A Mother for Choco by Keiko Kasza, 1992 Picture Book KASZA
A motherless bird searches for the right place to belong – and finally finds it with Mrs. Bear, who takes Choco into her loving home and introduces him to his new siblings. (Grades PreK-K)

Do Unto Otters by Laurie Keller, 2009 Picture Book KELLER
Entering a foster home means adjusting to unfamiliar household expectations. This book about manners is silly and approachable enough to be discussed between a foster caregiver and the children in their home in order to explain the reasons behind the rules (Grades K-3)

Be Who You Are by Todd Parr, 2016 Picture Book PARR
Moving from one placement to another often makes foster children feel like they need to prove themselves; they can also struggle with not looking like their foster family. This book offers a gentle message of reassurance. (Grades K-2)

Elliot by Julie Pearson, 2016 Picture Book PEARSON
An elephant child is removed from a struggling family, and placed in foster care. Over time, parental rights are terminated and Elliot is made eligible for adoption. (Grades K-2)

JUVENILE FICTION

Taken Away by Cyn Bermudez, 2018. Fiction BERMUDEZ
Debut author Bermudez kicks off a new series focusing on the relationship between two brothers separated by the foster-care system. They manage to stay in touch via email, sharing their struggles and hopes of being reunited (Grades 5-8)

Greetings from Witness Protection by Jake Burt, 2017. Fiction BURT
Thirteen-year-old Nicki Demere struggles with kleptomania when she's anxious, and has been in and out of foster homes for years. A United States Marshall entrusts her with the responsibility of keeping a family in witness protection safe – action and adventure ensues. (Grades 6-8)

Mostly the Honest Truth by Jodi Little, 2019.

Fiction LITTLE

When her father is sent back to rehab, Jane arrives at her latest foster home determined to reunite with him as soon as she can. Even as she counts the days until the two of them can be reunited, Jane guards her secrets – including what really happened to her injured hand. (Grades 5-8)

TEEN FICTION

Losers Bracket by Chris Crutcher, 2018.

Fiction CRUTCHER

Tough-talking athlete Annie has one year to go until she “ages out” of foster care, and gets to make her own choices as a young adult. When her nephew goes missing at one of Annie’s swim meets, the systems that have defined Annie and her sister’s life—bio families, foster families, social services, and law enforcement—slowly grind together try to find him. (Grades 8-12)

NON-FICTION

Family and Friends by Honor Head, 2013.

J 306.85 H432f

Describes different types of families, including foster families and how they are formed. Provides advice for having healthy relationships and questions to think about. (Grades 2-5)

Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights

by Julie Nelson, 2007.

J 362.733 N427f

Acknowledges children’s mixed feelings, reminds them that family problems were not their fault and reassures them that they have memories from the past and the ability to build loving relationships in the future. (Grades K-3)

Kids Need to be Safe by Julie Nelson, 2005.

J 362.733 N427k

This book is designed to help foster children understand why they aren’t currently with their biological parents, and offer them hope and reassurance. (Grades K-3)

Foster Parents by Rebecca Rissman, 2011

J 362.733 R596f

Describes what foster families are and how they care for children who need help until they return to their original families or move on to a permanent family. (Grades K-2)

Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care

by Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia K. Wright, 2002.

J 362.733 W677m

Provides a simple explanation for children in foster care about the processes impacting their lives, and acknowledges the questions for which there is no easy answer, such as: “When am I going home?” (Grades K-2)