

## Best Diverse Children's Books with Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Expansive Characters



**Annie's Plaid Shirt.** Stacy B. Davids. (Pre-K - 2) Annie loves her plaid shirt and wears it everywhere, but her mom says she must wear a dress to her uncle's wedding. Annie protests; she feels weird in dresses. But Annie has an idea. Will her mom agree?



**The Boy & the Bindi.** Vivek Shraya. (Pre-K – 2) A five-year-old South Asian boy becomes fascinated with his mother's bindi, the red dot commonly worn by Hindu women, and wishes to have one of his own. Rather than chastise her son, she agrees to it, giving him permission to be more fully himself.



**Bunnybear.** Andrea J. Loney. (Pre-K - 1) Although Bunnybear was born a bear, he feels more like a bunny. The other bears don't understand him, and neither do the bunnies. Will Bunnybear ever find a friend who likes him just the way he is?



**I** Am Jazz. Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings. (K - 5) From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew she was a girl, even though others saw her as a boy. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. Based on the real-life experiences of Jazz Jennings.



**Introducing Teddy: A gentle story about gender and friendship.** Jess Walton. (Pre-K – K) Introduces the youngest readers to gender identity and transition in an accessible and heart-warming story about being true to yourself and being a good friend.



It Feels Good to Be Yourself. Theresa Thorn. (Pre-K – 3) Some people are boys. Some people are girls. Some people are both, neither or somewhere in between. A straightforward exploration of gender identity, providing young readers and adults with the vocabulary to discuss the topic with sensitivity.



**Jacob's New Dress.** Sarah and Ian Hoffman. (Pre-K – 2) Jacob loves playing dress-up because he can be anything he wants to be. Jacob wants to wear a dress to school. Can he convince his parents to let him wear what he wants? Also see **Jacob's Room to Choose** as Jacob, Sophie and his teacher explore gender expression, stereotypes and a place to pee in peace.



**Julián Is a Mermaid.** Jessica Love. (Pre-K – 2) While riding the subway with his abuela, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. When Julián gets home, all he can think about is dressing up like them. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes— and even more important, what will she think about how Julián sees himself? A story about the power of being seen and affirmed.



**The Pants Project.** Cat Clarke. (3 - 6) Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy, but he hasn't told anyone. Now, his new school has a terrible dress code; he has to wear skirts! The only way for Liv to get what he wants is to go after it himself—to change the policy and his life.



**Red: A Crayon's Story.** Michael Hall. (Pre-K – 1) A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis. Almost everyone tries to "help" him be red until a friend offers a new perspective. He's blue! About finding the courage to be true to your inner self. Can be read on multiple levels.



**They, She, He easy as ABC.** Maya and Matthew Smith-Gonzalez. (Pre-K – 1) Inclusive pronouns are featured alongside the alphabet. An introduction to the many different ways people identify and use pronouns. Shows that including everyone is all part of the dance. "No one left out and everyone free."



**When Aidan Became a Big Brother.** Kyle Lukoff and Kaylani Juanita. (Pre-K - 2) When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl, but as he grew older, he realized he was a trans boy. When he finds out he is going to be a big brother, he learns the most important thing about being an older sibling: how to love with his whole self.



**Zenobia July.** Lisa Bunker. (5 - 9) Zenobia July is starting a new life in Maine with her aunts. People used to tell her she was a boy; now she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone anonymously posts hateful memes on her school's website, Zenobia knows she's the one with the hacking skills to solve the mystery.