

Trans and non-binary picture story books for children under 11:

Abbreviations:

GI = teaches about gender identity

JKP = Jessica Kingsley Publishers

NB = non-binary characters or about being non-binary

Q = queer content

True = based on a true story/real identifiable people

Trans = transgender content

The 60 transgender picture books on this list come from a range of sources including; Stonewall, No Outsiders, Manchester's Queer Lit bookshop, Islington Library, Pop'n'Olly, Equaliteach, Educate & Celebrate, the Trans Cis Collective twitter account, Diversity Mel, Jessica Kingsley Publishers (Hachette), HarperCollins, Macmillan Children's Books and Waterstones bookshop. The same books appear on many lists.

10,000 Dresses, Marcus Ewert, 2008, Seven Stories Press. **Trans** Ages 2-4 and 5-7 according to Stonewall but on lists for older children for teaching purposes. Diversity Role Models have used it for year 4s.

Bailey is referred to throughout as 'she' although Mum and Dad say he's a boy. Bailey's true identity as a girl is revealed when another girl makes him a dress of mirrors.

Recommended by Stonewall, Equaliteach and Diversity Role Models.

A Fox Called Herbert, Margaret Sturton, 2020, Anderson Press **Trans** Ages 2-5.

A rabbit who wants to be a fox, Herbert puts on fox outfits and plays with the foxes and Mother Rabbit eventually agrees, yes you are a fox.

A House for Everyone, Jo Hirst, 2018, JKP. **GI + Trans + NB** 4+ yrs.

Children who represent all sorts of gender identities including being trans build a playhouse together.

The author is the parent of a trans child.

A Match for A Mermaid, Eleanor Cullen, 2021, Pop Up Projects. **Trans** Ages 5+

Warning: this book contains an image of a Merman drawn with mastectomy scars. Author says "I would recommend this to anyone looking for a child-friendly LGBTQ romance."

About Chris, Nina Benedetto, 2015, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. **Trans** pre-school.

"I'm a girl from the waist down, and a boy from the waist up" "Chris loved cars, trucks, legos, mud and art and cowboy boots." From the blurb "A child who knows he is a boy despite the fact his body is a girl's."

Alien Nation, Matty Donaldson, 2017, The Proud Trust. **Trans + GI** Ages 5+

The story of two planets, planet boy, whose rules are: be masculine, like blue and wear trousers and planet girl: be feminine, like pink and wear dresses. The cartoon inhabitants of the story are sent to the planets as babies. Those who are happy with their pink or blue planet can stay where they are.

They are called 'cis'. If they aren't happy they can cross over a bridge, illustrated in the colours of the trans flag, to the other planet and they are called 'trans. Recommended by The Proud Trust, Stonewall, and the Rainbow Flag Award Scheme.

Are you a Boy or Are You a Girl, Sarah Savage, 2017, JKP. **NB + Q** Ages 3+.
Character Tiny won't say if he or she is a girl or a boy. The author is trans.
Recommended by Stonewall, Diversity Mel, No Outsiders.

Be Who You Are, Jennifer Carr, 2010, AuthorHouse. **Trans** Ages 4-8.
Blurb: "Nick was born in a boy's body, but has always felt like a girl inside. Nick's family supports him when he says he no longer wants to be called a boy or dress like a boy; "Always remember to be who you are Nick. Remember that we love you, and we are so proud of you." (p. 17). Nick's parents find a group for families like theirs. With their support, Nick expresses a desire to be addressed as "she," and then to be named "Hope." Based on the author's experiences with her children."
Recommended by Stonewall.
Author is the parent of a trans child.

Born Ready, the true story of a boy named Penelope, Jodie Patterson, 2021, Crown Books for Young Readers. **Trans + True**. Ages 4-8.
Sex stereotypes inform the whole thing. "I don't feel like a boy, I am a boy, I love you Mama but I don't want to be you. I want to be Papa. I don't want tomorrow to come because I'll look like you."
"Penelope is not a pretend boy or a tomboy. He is our five-year-old big boy."
Patterson is the chair of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation Board.

But, I am not a boy, Kathy Leone, 2015, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. **Trans** Ages 6-8.
"David has a big problem; she is really a girl named Sarah.
But nobody knows and everyone assumes she is a boy.
When her parents ask why she is so sad,
is she brave enough to tell them the truth?"
Uses the mirror image – boy looks in the mirror and sees a girl.
On the reading list of Equaliteach who provide EDI training in schools.
The author is trans.

Bye Bye Binary, Eric Geron, 2022, Harper Collins. **NB** Ages 0-4.
Baby character uses adult language about being non-binary. Readers are not told if the baby is a boy or a girl. "I'm ready to smash gender norms, they are only social constructs anyway."
Replies when asked if a boy or girl "WHAT'S IT TO YA?"

Calvin, JR & Vanessa Ford, 2021, Penguin. **Trans + True** Ages 4-8 years.
The true story of a child written by parents who transitioned their daughter at 4.

Call Me Max, Kyle Lukoff, 2019, Reycraft Books. **Trans** Ages 6-9.
Blurb says "When Max starts school, the teacher hesitates to call out the name on the attendance sheet. Something doesn't seem to fit. Max lets her know the name he wants to be called by--a boy's

name. This begins Max's journey as he makes new friends and reveals his feelings about his identity to his parents. Written with warmth and sensitivity by trans writer Kyle Lukoff, this book is a sweet and age-appropriate introduction to what it means to be transgender.”

Recommended by Diversity Mel.

The author is trans.

Fantastic Frankie, Jess Rose, 2022, New Frontier Publishing. **NB** Ages 3-6.

Frankie isn't referred to by his/her sex. The teaching notes say: “Frankie isn't referred to as a boy or a girl, just Frankie. Do you think it matters what you wear if you're a girl or a boy?”

From the Stars in the Sky To the Fish in the Sea, Kai Cheng Thom, 2017, Arsenal Pulp Press. **GI + Trans**.

A new born baby can't decide whether to be a boy or a girl – but will always be loved.

The author is trans.

Here Be Monsters, Jay Hulme, 2021, Pop Up Projects. **Trans** Ages 5+

Blurb “A sea-born creature, who never quite belongs, discovers who she really is, in this powerful illustrated song about metamorphosis and finding your true home. Writer Jay Hulme's 'little epic poem' is a tender and uplifting parable about the transgender experience”

JH says “I think the power of a parable, an allegory, is that it creates in its subject matter a wider applicability - yes, this story is about being trans, and the details all line up for that experience, but because it's told through the medium of a dragon, lots of children will be able to relate it to their own lives and struggles, and this will lead to increased empathy. When a trans child reads it, they will hopefully feel seen and validated, and when a cis child reads it, they will hopefully feel a connection to that character and experience too, a connection that will enable them to see their trans peers in a positive light.”

The author is trans.

He's My Mom, Sarah Savage, 2021, JKP. **Trans** ages 3-7.

Online blurb ‘Featuring a child with a **mom** who has transitioned, this book passes on an important message about acceptance and respect, and covers pronouns, dysphoria, family’

The author is trans.

I Am Jazz, Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, 2014, Penguin. **Trans + True** Ages 4-8 but co-author says 3-4.

Based on the early life of Jazz Jennings, trans reality TV star. Refers readers to Mermaids for more information.

Recommended by Stonewall.

I am Not a Girl, Maddox Lyons and Jessica Verdi, 2020, Macmillan. **Trans + True** ages 3-6.

“Maddox Lyons is a twelve-year-old transgender boy who lives in California with his parents, sister, two dogs, and two pet rats. After he came out, Maddox and his family went in search of books for and about kids like him. There were very few, so he set out to write one. I'm Not a Girl is based on his true gender identity journey.” From Maddox's website.

Recommended by Diversity Mel.

If You Are A Kid Like Gavin, Kyle Lukoff, 2022, Harper Collins. **Trans + True** ages 4-8.

Based on the real-life story of Gavin Grimm, a girl transitioned as a child. From the blurb “When you’re a kid like Gavin Grimm, you know yourself best. And Gavin knew that he was a boy - even if others saw him as a girl.”

The author is trans.

Introducing Teddy, Jessica Walton, 2016, Bloomsbury. **Trans** ages 3+

Toy teddy bear Thomas wants to be a girl teddy and to be called Tilly.

The author was “inspired to write the book after her father transitioned into the woman she had always been on the inside.”

Recommended by No Outsiders, Diversity Mel.

It’s OK to Sparkle, Avery Jackson, 2017, Self-published by Avery’s mother. **Trans + True** Ages 7-11.

Written by a 7-yr-old ‘trans girl’ with considerable online presence and an activist mother.

Jack (not Jackie), Erica Silverman, 2008, Little Bee Books. **Trans**. Ages 4-8.

“My editor at Little Bee, Sonali Fry, asked for a picture book about a transgender child and the idea resonated instantly. I felt the rightness of it in my heart and was excited to get started. All young children need to see themselves in books, and I knew there was very little available for transgender children and their families.”

“Provides a necessary message of acceptance and representation for transgender boys.”

Jamie, Olly Pike, 2015, Oliver Pike. **Trans** ages 3-7.

Based on Cinderella, Jamie cuts her hair and becomes a boy.

Julian is a Mermaid, Jessica Love, 2018, Walker Books. **Trans** Ages 2-6.

The story of a boy who dreams of being a mermaid. While not overtly trans it is on most lists of transgender children’s books. (There has been a lot of pushback against this book from LGBT groups/writers because Love is white and not trans).

Recommended by Educate & Celebrate, No Outsiders.

Laverne Cox, Maria Vegara, 2022, Frances Lincoln Publishers. **Trans + True** Ages 3+

“perfect for reading aloud to babies and toddlers” according to the Waterstones website. “One spring a pair of twins was born in Alabama, USA. Their mother was told they were boys. But it wasn’t long before one of them, Laverne, realised that everyone had made a mistake: she was a girl” (picture shows Laverne holding a woman’s high heel shoe in a shoe shop). “From the clothes she was supposed to wear to the changing room she had to use nothing felt exactly right” (picture shows Laverne looking sadly at toy trucks).

My Awesome Brother, Lise Frances, 2018, Mabel Media. **Trans** Ages 3-11.

Blurb “*My Awesome Brother* is a children's book that centres around a child whose adored older sister is pre-transitioning. We follow the child's efforts to bring a smile to their sister's face, and then revel in the joy both feel after the transition.”

My Dad Thinks I’m a Boy! Sophie Labelle, 2020, JKP. **Trans** ages 6-9.

Blurb says “‘My Dad thinks I’m a boy named Stephen who likes wrestling and fishing. But that’s what my Dad likes.’ Stephie is 7 years old. She likes bugs, books and spaghetti. Also, she’s a girl... which should be pretty easy to understand, right? Well, not for her Dad! He’s been mistaking her for a boy since she was born and struggles to see her for who she is.”
The author is trans.

My Own Way, Joana Estrela, translated by Jay Hulme, 2022, Wide Eyed Editions. **NB + Trans + Q** ages 2-6.

“You might be both, you might be none, your truth isn’t hidden under your clothes.”
Translator is a trans author and activist.

My Rainbow, Trinity and DeShanna Neal, 2020, Penguin. **Trans + True** ages 4-8.

“A dedicated mom puts love into action as she creates the perfect rainbow-colored wig for her transgender daughter, based on the real-life experience of mother-daughter advocate duo Trinity and DeShanna Neal.”

My Shadow is Pink, Scott Stuart, 2020, Larrikin House. **True + GI** Ages 3-9.

Dad says “Your shadow is pink, I see now it’s true, it’s not just your shadow, it’s your innermost you.”

Recommended by Educate & Celebrate.

My Shadow is Purple, Scott Stuart, 2022, Larrikin House. **NB + Q**.

Main child character likes trains, glitter, football and dancing, their ‘gender’ or sex is never revealed.

Neither, Airlie Anderson, 2018, Little, Brown. **NB** ages 4-8.

“In the Land of This and That, there are only two kinds: blue bunnies and yellow birds. But one day a funny green egg hatches, and a little creature that’s not quite a bird and not quite a bunny pops out. It’s neither!”

The binary bunnies and birds are mean to Neither, the bird/rabbit hybrid forcing it to find somewhere where all are welcome.

Recommended by Educate & Celebrate.

Nisha’s Monster, Me and My Dysphoria Monster. Laura Kate Dale, 2022, JKP. **Trans**. Ages 4-8.

Blurb “When people refer to her as a boy, or when she tries to hide her true gender identity, Nisha’s dysphoria monster grows larger and larger. Until, one day, Nisha meets Jack - a trans man - who shows Nisha how she can shrink her dysphoria monster back down to size.”

The author is trans with a big online presence.

Not A Cat, Winter Miller, 2022, Tilbury House. **Q** ages 3-5.

“Winter Miller, author of a newly released children’s book called [Not a Cat](#), tells the story of Gato, who confides that he does not actually feel like a member of the feline community. *How can he be sure that he is not a bunny, cow, dog, duck, horse or human?* he wonders.”

Payden’s Pronoun Party, Blue Jaryn, 2022, Page Street Publishers. **NB** Ages 4-8.

Blurb says “Payden has always used he/him pronouns, until one day Payden realizes those words

might not fit. Payden's parents promise to throw a big party to introduce whatever pronouns Payden choosesThe right pronouns are just waiting to be tried on."
The author is trans and non-binary.

Peanut Goes For Gold, Jonathan Van Ness, 2020, Harper Collins. **NB** pre-school.
The book "follows the adventures of Peanut, a gender nonbinary guinea pig who does everything with their own personal flare."
Author says he is non-binary.

Phoenix Goes to School, Michelle Finch, 2018, JKP. **Trans + True** Ages 3+
"A transgender girl introduces us to her family and life. She worries that other kids won't understand her on her first day at school, but finds they are warm and welcoming. A very matter-of-fact story by a mom and her seven-year-old transgender daughter, loosely based on their own life."
Recommended by Stonewall.
The author is the parent of a trans child.

Red, A Crayon's Story, Michael Hall, 2015, Harper Collins. **Trans**. Ages 4-8.
A red crayon keeps drawing in blue, until finally accepted for its true identity.
This book is read as being about trans though it's not certain that was Hall's intention.
On most LGBT booklists including No Outsiders, Educate & Celebrate, and Stonewall.

Sam is My Sister, Ashley Rhodes-Courter, 2021, Global Publisher Services. **Trans + True** Ages 4-7.
"Evan loves being big brother to Sam and Finn. They do everything together--go fishing, climb trees, and play astronauts. But lately, Evan notices that he and Sam don't look like brothers anymore. Sam wants to have long hair, and even asks to wear a dress on the first day of school. As time goes by, Evan comes to understand why Sam wants to look like a girl - because Sam is a girl. Sam is transgender. And just like always, Sam loves to dream with Evan and Finn about going to the moon together. Based on one family's real-life experiences" Sam is a pre-schooler.
The author is the parent of a trans child.

She's My Dad, Sarah Savage, 2020, JKP, **Trans** 3-7 yrs.
"A story for children who have a transgender parent or relative" told by a 6 yr old girl, Dad is a 'she' who grew her hair and painted her nails in bright colours, child uses she/her pronouns and polices Dad's pronouns with other children.
Recommended by school trainers Norfolk LGBT+ Project.
The author is trans.

The Adventures of Tulip, Birthday Wish Fairy, S Bear Bergman, 2012, Flamingo Rampant. **Trans** Ages 7-11.
Tulip grants wishes for all 9-yr-olds on their birthdays. "When a wish Tulip is unfamiliar with crosses his desk, from a child known as David who wishes to live as Daniela, he seeks the wise counsel of the Wish Fairy Captain and learns some new Wish Fairy Skills (while also introducing the concept of trans-identified children in a friendly, sympathetic way)."
The author is trans.

The Prince and the Frog. Olly Pike, 2018, JKP **NB**

The Gender Fairy, Jo Hirst, 2015, Oban Road Publishing. **Trans** Ages 4+

The story of two children who are socially transitioned. "only you know whether you are a boy or a girl. No one can tell you." Foreword by Michelle Telfer clinician at the Gender Service at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne.

The author is the parent of a trans child.

Timid, Harry Woodgate, 2022, Little Bee Books. **NB** Ages 4-8.

Story of Tim who is timid and uses they/them pronouns.

Vincent the Vixen, Alice Reeves, 2018, KJP. **Trans** ages 4-8.

Vincent likes to dress in female clothes. Amazon says "Vincent is a fox who is assigned male at birth, but who knows they are actually a girl."

When Aidan Became a Brother, Kyle Lukoff, 2019, Lee and Low Books. **Trans** ages 3-7.

"transgender boy anticipates his new job as a big brother by helping his parents prepare for his baby sibling's arrival."

"When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl. His parents gave him a pretty name, his room looked like a girl's room, and he wore clothes that other girls liked wearing. After he realized he was a trans boy, Aidan and his parents fixed the parts of his life that didn't fit anymore, and he settled happily into his new life."

The author is trans.

Recommended by Stonewall and Educate & Celebrate.

When Kathy is Keith, Wallace Wong, 2011, Xlibris US. **Trans** Ages 4-8.

Kathy wants to be a boy and when she looks in the mirror she sees her reflection as a boy. Author is a psychologist who affirms children as trans. Some as young as 2.

"known to his family, friends, and classmates as Kathy. While Keith initially has to deal with people not understanding his identity, the support of his loved ones means he is able to be who he really is. This picture book discusses gender identity simply and clearly, in a way that very young kids can understand."

More on the author:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKbfbBoAGYM>

When Kayla Was Kyle, Amy Fabrikant, 2013, Avid Readers Publishing Group. **Trans** Ages 6-10.

Blurb "Kyle doesn't understand why the other kids at school call him names. He looks like other boys, but doesn't feel like them. Can Kyle find the words to share his feelings about his gender - and can his parents help him to transition into the girl he was born to be?"

Kyle is bullied badly for not liking sport, preferring dolls, says he wants to die. Parents transition him into a her. The story never questions the homophobic bullying. Warning: suicide ideation.

Recommended by Stonewall.

You Need to Chill, Juno Dawson, 2022, Harper Collins, **Trans**. Ages 4-7.

"You need to chill hun. My brother is now my sister."

Author is trans.

Non-fiction Trans and LGBT+ picture books for under 11s

ABC Of Gender Identity, Devika Dalal, 2019, JKP. **Trans** Ages 5+

Includes “Horogender- Someone whose identity changes over time. Kynigender— Someone who is unable to pinpoint their gender due to stress of the questioning process.”

ABC Pride, Elly Barnes and Louie Stowell, 2022, DK Children. **Trans** Ages 3-5.

B is for belonging, G is for gender, T is for trans, L is for love, W is for wig, X is for [pronoun] Xe. Only the T for transgender remains of the LGBT acronym.

All Bodies Are Cool, Tyler Feder, 2021, Puffin. **Trans** Ages 2-8.

Lots of different body shapes illustrated, none are described by sex. A number of pictures including the cover show mastectomy scars.

Every Body Is A Rainbow, Caroline Carter, 2022, Rainbow Kids Press. **Trans** Ages 4-8.

“A nonfiction picture book that celebrates the diversity of bodies, gender identities, and expressions.”

Quotes from the book “Some rainbow bodies have a long spongy piece of skin called a penis.”

“Kids who have these body parts also have a gender identity that is girl, boy, both, neither, somewhere-in-between or whatever feels right for them” “When you were born a doctor or midwife, or not long after, may have seen your private parts and guessed you were a boy or a girl. Maybe they guessed right. Maybe they didn’t.”

It Feels Good To Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity, Theresa Thorn, 2019, Macmillan.

Trans Ages 4-8.

Ruthie “is a transgender girl. When she was born everyone thought she was a boy...until she told everyone that she is actually a girl.” “Alex is both a boy and a girl” “JJ is neither a boy nor a girl” “When you were born you couldn’t tell people who you were or how you felt. They looked at you and made a guess. Maybe they got it right, maybe they got it wrong.”

Glossary includes intersex and pronouns.

Recommended by Diversity Mel.

Some Bodies, Sophie Kennen, 2022, Sleeping Bear Press. **Trans** Ages 5-8.

Different body shapes and sizes. Quote from the book “some people choose to have their bodies changed” beside illustration of a person with mastectomy scars.

They, He, She, Me, Free To Be, Maya Gonzalez, 2017, Reflection Press. Ages 5-11.

All about pronouns and getting rid of them.

Recommended by Educate & Celebrate.

What Does LGBT+ Mean?, Olly Pike and Mel Lane, 2021, Pop’n’Olly. **Trans** Ages 7-11.

Chapter headings: Identity, Assigned sex and gender, Gender as a spectrum & pronouns, Transgender, Non-binary, Intersex, Romantic love, Sexual orientation, LGBT+ Flag Guide.

The book ends with the Mermaids helpline number, advising children to call if they have any further questions that they can’t ask a parent or teacher.

Who Are You? Brook Pessin-Whedbee, 2016, JKP. **Trans** Ages preschool – 8yrs.

Some quotes “Is it a boy or is it a girl? Babies can’t talk, so grown-ups make a guess by looking at their bodies. This is the sex assigned to you at birth.”

Explains the transgender activist lexicon, trans, cisgender, gender neutral, neutrois, agender etc.

Recommended by Stonewall.

You Be You: The Kid’s Guide To Gender, Sexuality and Family, Jonathan Branfman, 2019, JKP, **Trans** Ages 7-11.

“What’s transitioning? Well, some people change their bodies, to match the gender they identify with.”

Contains activist explanations of intersex, asexual, aromantic, bisexual, pansexual, genderqueer, trans identities and privilege.

Transgender Trend 2023

<https://www.transgendertrend.com/>