PACT RECOMMENDED BOOKLIST

General parenting, communication and discipline


**Divorce, co-parenting and single parenting**


Doss, B., *But... What About Me? (How It Feels To Be a Kid in Divorce)* 2nd Edition. Bookmark, 2000. Through a child’s voice we learn about the emotional experience of living through parental divorce. May also be appropriate for some children.


Newman, G., *101 Ways to be a Long-Distance Super Dad…or Mom, Too!* New York: Robert Reed, 2006. Keeping the connection with children when living apart from them.


## Conflict Resolution in Divorce


**Remarriage and Step-Parenting**


**Young Children (3-7)**

Abercrombie, B. and M. Graham, *Charlie Anderson*, New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1995. A cat lives with one family during the day and another at night. The children who own him realize that both they and the cat have “two houses, two beds, two families who love” them.

Abney, J., *Anaiya Lives with Daddy; Anaiya Visits Mommy*, OK: Tate Publishing, 2009. An African-American child moves from her mother’s to her father’s home, learning that parents do not have to be married in order to love and care for their child.

Asurel, C. and Denton, K., *Two Homes*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2003. This gently reassuring text focuses on what is gained rather than lost when parents divorce. Sensitive illustrations depict two unique homes in all their small details, firmly stabiling the child’s place in both of them.

Bunting, E. and Papp, L., *My Mom’s Wedding*. Ann Arbor: Sleeping Bear Press, 2011. Seven-year-old Pinky reflects upon her relationships with her faraway father and soon-to-be stepfather. Pinky secretly hopes her parents will get back together, but eventually realizes that she is happy for her mother and stepfather.

Coffelt, N., *Fred Stays with Me!* New York: Little, Brown and Co, 2007. Highlights the importance of bringing loved objects back and forth between two homes, and emphasizes the things that remain the same: school, friends and the constancy of a beloved dog.


Levins, S., *Was It The Chocolate Pudding?* Washington, DC: Magination Press, 2006. Told from the perspective of a young boy living with his single father and brother, divorce is explained with an emphasis on the fact that it is not the child's fault.


Reilly, N and Pease, B., *My Stick Family*, NJ: New Horizon Press, 2002. Billy learns that just because his parents are divorced and live in separate homes, it doesn't mean he’s lost the strength and love of his family.

Picard, M., *Divorce and the Unbroken Circle of Love*, UT: Cedar Fort, 2006. Children come to understand that divorce does not mean the end of love and family.


### Elementary School Children (8-12)

Alvarez, J., *How Tia Lola Came to (Visit) Stay*. New York: Random House, 2002. A grandmother from the Dominican Republic comes to stay with a nine-year-old boy and his younger sister after their parents divorce and the family has moved. 8+


**Davis, D., *Something is Wrong at my House***. Seattle: Parenting Press, 2010. Based on a true story, this 32-page book shows a child seeking, and finally obtaining, help in a domestic violence situation. 6+

Fine, A., *Step by Wicked Step*. Demco Media, 1997. Stranded in a haunted house at night, a group of five students reveal their stepfamily stories. 9+

Heegaard, M.E., *When Mom and Dad Separate: Children Can Learn to Cope with Grief from Divorce*. Woodland Press, 1996. Workbook allows children to put feelings into drawings when words are hard to find. 9+


Moss, M., *Max Disaster #1: Alien Eraser to the Rescue*. Candlewick: 2009. Max and his zany adventures while coping with his parents’ divorce. 8-12


Ricci, I., *Mom’s House Dad’s House for Kids: Feeling at Home in One Home or Two* New York: Fireside, 2006. From popular author, how kids can stay strong and succeed in life when parents separate, divorce, or get married again. 9+

Swan-Jackson, A., *When Your Parents Split Up: How to Keep Yourself Together*. Price Stern Sloan, 1999. Experts answers teens’ questions about divorce. Includes advice, questionnaires and activities, plus real-life interviews with teens who have been through the same situation. 9+


**Adolescents (13+)**


Casella-Kapusinski, L. *Now What Do I Do? A Guide to Help Teenagers with Their Parents’ Separation or Divorce*. ACTA Publications, 2006. How to deal with feelings of guilt and anger, improve communication with parents, reexamine family ties, avoid the parental war zone, find comfort in faith and friends, and learn to forgive. (Christian orientation)

Danziger, P., *The Divorce Express*. New York: Puffin Press, Republished 2007. Shuttling between her divorced parents, Phoebe is on the "Divorce Express," a bus on which she spends too much time but where she also makes some startling discoveries.


Stern, Z. and Stern, E., *Divorce is Not The End of The World: Zoe’s and Evan’s Coping Guide for Kids.* Berkeley: Tricycle Press, Rev Ed, 2008. Ten years later, the authors revisit topics they first wrote about at ages 13 and 15 when their parents divorced.


*The greatest gift you can give your children is to allow them to have a loving, satisfying relationship with both parents and not expose them to continued conflict and hostility.*