

Katy Magazine's Guide for the BEST KIDS' BOOKS for Tough Conversations

Written by Susanna Donald

It's no secret that reading to and with your kids has an overwhelmingly positive impact on their lives. Studies show that reading aloud to preschool and school-aged children is one of the best ways to contribute to their future academic success, and other studies show children who read fiction are better empathizers and problem-solvers. More than that, reading together is a great way to forge deeper bonds with your children, creating a safe place for them to imagine, explore, and ask questions. Even when you have to approach the more difficult topics like grief, puberty, or divorce.

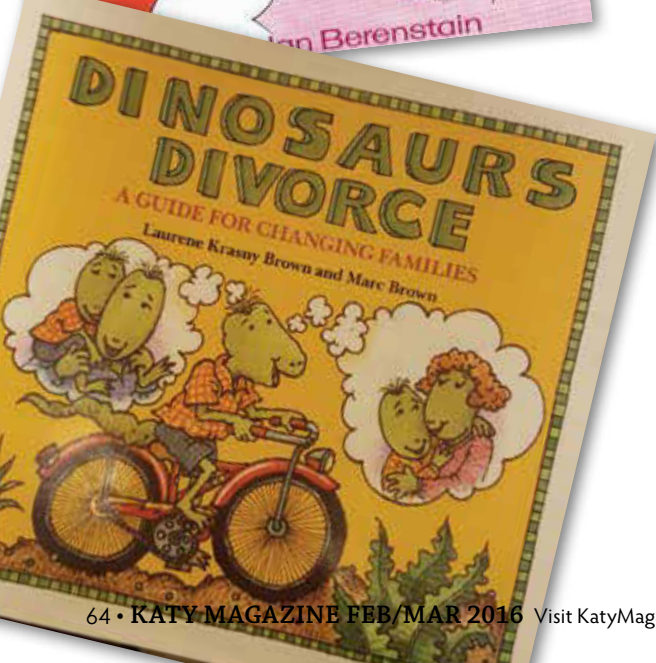
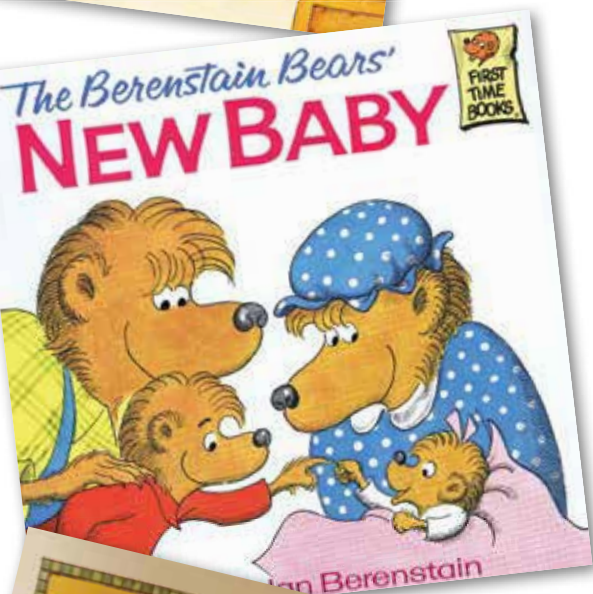
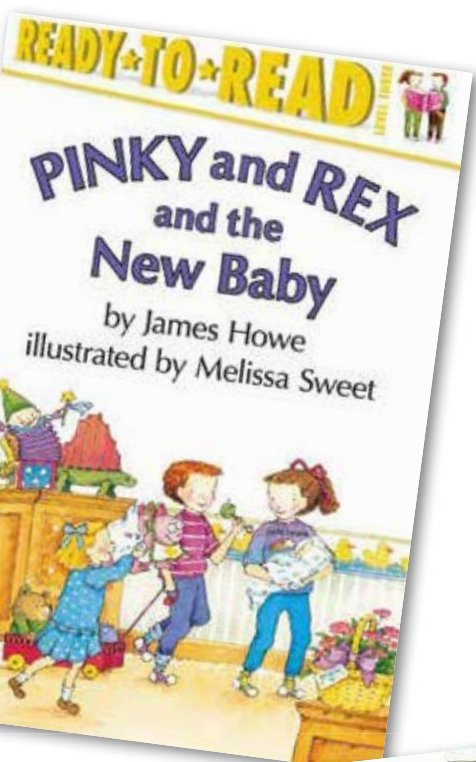
Fortunately, there are scads of fantastic books parents and children can enjoy together. *Katy Magazine* offers this list of best children's books in a variety of categories so that you can choose the right books for you and your kids at any stage.

New Baby

- *I'm a Big Brother/I'm a Big Sister* by Joanna Cole (4 - 8 years)
- *The New Baby* by Mercer Mayer (3 - 7 years)
- *The Berenstain Bears' New Baby* by Stan Berenstain (3 - 7 years)
- *Big Brothers/Big Sisters are the Best* by Fran Manushkin (2 - 5 years)
- *Maple* by Lori Nichols (preschool - first grade)
- *The Twins' Little Sister* by Hyewon Yum (3 - 6 years)
- *The Newbies* by Peter Catalanotto (kindergarten - second grade)
- *Here She Is!* by Catherine LeBlanc (toddler - preschool)
- *Pinky and Rex and the New Baby* by James Howe (6 - 8 years)

Divorce

- *Two Homes* by Claire Masurel (2 - 5 years)
- *My Family's Changing* by Pat Thomas (kindergarten - fourth grade)
- *Divorce is the Worst* by Anastasia Higginbotham (4 - 8 years)
- *I Have Two Homes* by Marian DeSmet (5 - 7 years)
- *Priscilla Twice* by Judith Caseley (4 and up)
- *Dinosaurs Divorce* by Laurene Krasny Brown (3 - 6 years)
- *Living with Mom and Living with Dad* by Melanie Walsh (3 - 7 years)
- *Divorce is Not the End of the World: Zoe and Evan's Coping Guide for Kids* by Zoe and Evan Stern (8 - 12 years)
- *It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear* by Vicki Lansky (3 - 7 years)



Adoption

- *The Day We Met You* by Phoebe Koehler (2 - 5 years)
- *God Found Us You* by Lisa Tawn Bergren (4 - 8 years)
- *Tell Me Again About the Night I was Born* by Jamie Lee Curtis (4 - 8 years)
- *The Family Book* by Todd Parr (2 - 6 years)
- *Jazzy's Quest: Adopted and Amazing* by Carrie Goldman (6 - 12 years)
- *ABC, Adoption, and Me* by Gayle H. Swift (3 - 10 years)
- *Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale* by Karen Katz (3 - 7 years)
- *I Love You Like Crazy Cakes* by Rose Lewis (3 - 6 years)
- *I Wished for You* by Marianne Richard (2 and up)

Potty Training

- *Everyone Poops* by Taro Gomi (1 - 4 years)
- *The Potty Train* by David Hochman (1 - 4 years)
- *Potty* by Leslie Patricelli (1 - 3 years)
- *My Big Boy Potty/My Big Girl Potty* by Joanna Cole (1 - 3 years)
- *Once Upon a Potty* by Alona Frankel (2 - 4 years)
- *A Potty for Me* by Karen Katz (1 - 5 years)
- *Even Firefighters Go to the Potty* by Wendy Wax (2 - 5 years)
- *The Potty Book for Boys/Girls* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1 - 3 years)
- *Potty Animals* by Hope Vestergaard (2 - 6 years)

Loss/Grief

- *I Miss You* by Pat Thomas (4 and up)
- *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf* by Leo Buscaglia (4 and up)
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White (8 - 12 years)
- *Where are You?* by Laura Olivieri (4 - 8 years)
- *Sad isn't Bad* by Michaelene Mundy (6 and up)
- *The Goodbye Book* by Todd Parr (3 - 6 years)
- *Boats for Papa* by Jessixa Bagley (3 - 7 years)
- *Bug in a Vacuum* by Melanie Watt (5 - 9 years)
- *Tear Soup* by Pat Schwiebert (8 and up)

Transitions

- *The 'What's Happening to My Body' book for Boys/Girls* by Lynda Madaras (12 and up)
- *The Boys'/Girls' Body Book* by Kelli Dunham (8 - 13 years)
- *The Care and Keeping of You* by Valorie Shaefer (girls 8 and up)
- *The Body Book* by Nancy Rue (girls 7 - 10 years)
- *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume (8 - 12 years)
- *100% Me* by Elinor Greenwood (8 - 14 years)
- *Changing Bodies, Changing Lives* by Ruth Bell (12 and up) KM

Special thanks to Richard and Alicia Deupree of Katy Budget Books and the librarians at Cinco Ranch Library for their recommendations.

