

FAMILY VOCABULARY

LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus other people who use different language to describe a variety of identities. For example, in the book "How Many Grown-ups Do You Have?" by Polina Buchan, Mala's Dad and Papa are part of the LGBTQ+ community, as are many other people featured in that book.

Transgender people identify with a different gender from the one they were assigned at birth.

Non-binary, genderqueer and **genderfluid** are some of the terms used by people who don't identify specifically as a man or a woman. Everyone's gender and how they feel about themselves is unique to them, and we can't tell a person's gender just by looking at them. Kai is non-binary and uses the pronoun "they".

Polyamorous people love more than one person at a time. Sometimes that means that multiple adults, some or all of whom are in a loving relationship, live together, like Briar's 4 grown-ups. And sometimes adults date multiple people, but don't live with them.

Co-parents are parents who usually don't live together but work as a team to care for their child. Sometimes that means that the child has more than one home. Oscar's parents are co-parenting, and Oscar has two homes.

Stepparents are partners of a kid's parents who also care for the kid. Not all partners are called Stepparents, but it's a common word. Quinn's Mom has a new partner, who Quinn calls Stepdad.

Stepsiblings, stepsisters, stepbrothers are a kid's siblings with whom they share one parent. Quinn's Mom and Stepdad have a baby. Quinn and baby Lyla have the same Mom; they are stepsiblings.

Surrogate is a person who carries and gives birth to a baby for a person who is not able to have children. Niko's Dad and Daddy couldn't have a baby on their own, and they asked Ali to grow a baby for them in her belly.

Adoption happens when a kid is not raised by their birth parents, but joins a new family, who raise the child as their own. Mama and Mommy are Imani's adoptive parents. Imani joined their family when she was a baby, but kids can be adopted when they are older, too.

Foster homes are temporary homes for children who don't currently live with their parents. **Foster children** are cared for by **foster parents**. Children stay with a foster family until they can reunite with their parents, until they are adopted, or until the age of majority. Alex's foster parents are Kathy and Igor, and Papa is Alex's parent.

From "HOW MANY GROWN-UPS DO YOU HAVE?" by Polina Buchan

More books & resources at polinabuchan.com