

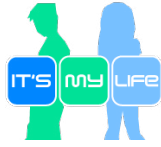
Co-Parenting Resource List

About 40% of first-marriages will end in divorce, and over 16,000 children experience their parents' divorce in Wisconsin each year. Many other children experience the separation of their never-married parents. This is an extremely stressful time for parents and children alike, and often leads to serious problems for the children. Below are some resources that can help during a time of transition.

Websites

[PBS Kids - It's My Life](#)

It's My Life deals with (you guessed it!) life and the stuff that we deal with every day. Whatever problem you're dealing with, believe it or not, other kids and teens have gone through the same thing. You can read informative articles, share your stories, play games and activities, take quizzes and polls, watch video clips of other kids talking about their feelings and experiences, get advice from older kids and experts, and contribute your own comments and questions. It's My Life also features interviews with celebrities about stuff they had to go through when they were kids.



[Kids In The Middle® \(KITM\)](#)

Is a non-profit organization that helps children, parents and families thrive during and after divorce through counseling, education and support.



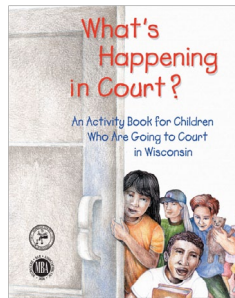
<http://www.kidsinthemiddle.org>

Related Topic | Divorce

<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/family/divorce/index.html>

Activity Books & Games

The children's activity book "*What's Happening in Court?*" is full of activities and useful information to help children and their families who may be in court for any reason-- whether they are visitors, witnesses, or directly involved in a case. Specifically the book explains what happens in court, who works there, and the rules of court.



Activity Book <https://goo.gl/FvHiXH>

Interactive <https://goo.gl/tl5W8D>

Upside Down Divorce Game

Players will learn to develop new coping skills to help them deal with the common problems that occur after a separation or divorce. As players go around the colorful board they flip their playing pieces upside down. To turn them right side up, they have to learn new coping and communication skills. Children are also challenged to think of creative ways to solve the problems that typically come with divorce and to express positive feelings about themselves and their future.

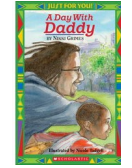
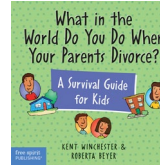
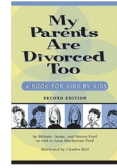
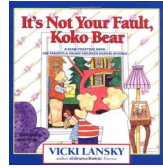
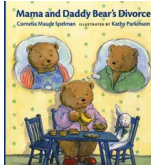
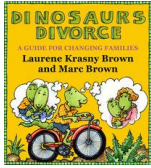


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Original List Created by Heather Schmitz & Michelle Sanderson | UW-Extension Rusk County
2016 additions by Karen Dickrell | UW-Extension Outagamie County

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Books - Ages 3-8



Dinosaurs Divorce A Guide For Changing Families:
by Laurene Krasny Brown and Marc Brown

Mama and Daddy Bear's Divorce:
by Cornelia Maude Spelman

Two Homes by Claire Masurel

Its Not Your Fault, KoKo Bear: by Vicki Lansky

My Parents are Divorced, too:
by Melanie, Annie, and Steve Ford

What in the World Do You Do When Your Parents Divorce?
by Kent Winchester & Roberta Beyer

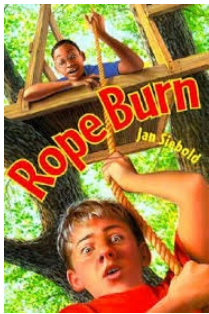
Mom's House, Dad's House for Kids by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D.

Don't Ask Me to Choose - Teens Write About Divorce
by Youth Communication

Weekends with Max and his Dad by Linda Urban

A Day with Daddy by Nikki Grimes

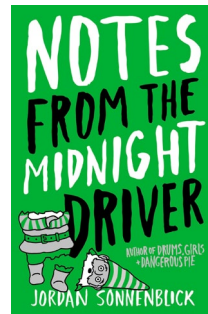
Books for Grades 4+



Rope Burn by Jan Siebold
Grade 4-6

Richard is to "write a composition about a proverb that illustrates something that has happened" to him. He is overwhelmed by the number of proverbs that could apply to his life, which has recently been turned upside down by his parents' divorce and a move to a new house in another part of town. Through this writing assignment, Siebold gently guides readers through

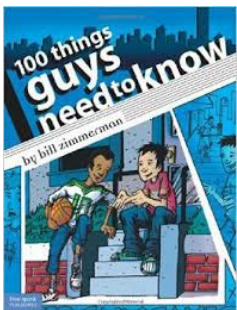
cross-sections of Richard's life as he examines his past and learns to express his feelings. Kids with an eye for detail will notice the graphics at the top of each page that correspond to the chapter headings. Teachers could use its premise as a jumping-off point for similar assignments. Each chapter is an invitation for classroom discussion and can stand alone.



Notes from the midnight driver
by Jordan Sonnenblick | Grade 8+

After drinking some vodka and taking his mom's car for a spin to his father's girlfriend's house, who just happens to be his former third-grade teacher, 16-year-old Alex Gregory finds himself on his neighbors' lawn with police yelling at him and a broken gnome under his car. It is hard to believe that Alex would do anything like this; most of the time he hangs out with his friend

Laurie, a sassy petite karate expert, and plays guitar in the school jazz band. He is also trying to get over his parents' recent split. For drinking and driving, Alex is sentenced to 100 hours of community service at a nursing home with Solomon Lewis. Sol is a difficult, crotchety, eccentric old man with emphysema who lashes out at Alex in strange Yiddish phrases.



100 Things Guys Need to Know
by Bill Zimmerman | Grades 4-7

Zimmerman surveyed over 500 boys, ages 9 to 13, and offers their insights in this benign collection of tips for success. Organized into six sections You, Body and Mind, Family, School, Relationships, and Future these bits of wisdom generally boil down to being true to oneself and acting with personal integrity.

Unfortunately, they are spooned out in platitudes, like Communication Is Important, Friends and Family Can Mix, Do What's Right for You, and Explore Your Interests. Zimmerman includes numerous quotes from his survey results and boxed items such as A Guy Like You, Take Action!, Fact, Check This Out, and Tips to beef up the once-over-lightly text with some actual details and empowering suggestions. Cartoon drawings decorate the pages, with spreads of Guy Comix illustrating the text with situational scenarios. The net effect is not unlike reading a collection of brief self-help articles from a teen magazine.



Stand Tall by Joan Bauer
Ages 10+

At first, 12-year-old Tree, "six feet, three and a half inches and growing," only literally "stands tall." At school, Coach Glummer expects him to lead the basketball team (though he's not very athletic) and teachers expect him to act older than his age. On the home front which shifts weekly due to his parents' recent divorce and joint custody

arrangement Tree is the glue of his family. He helps care for his Vietnam vet grandfather (who recently had a leg amputated) while worrying about his aging dog, Bradley, his two college-student brothers and his parents. Bolstered by his budding friendship with the outspoken new girl at school, Sophie, and by Grandpa, Tree finds an inner strength that helps him deal with just about anything including a natural disaster. Bauer once again creates a clan of believable characters scrambling to make the best of their particular brand of dysfunction. Her swiftly paced story artfully blends poignant and outright funny moments, resulting in a triumphant tale that will resonate with many young readers.

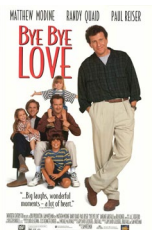
Movies



Kramer vs. Kramer - Winner of five Academy Awards. On the same day Manhattan advertising executive Ted Kramer (Dustin Hoffman) lands the biggest account of his career, he learns that his wife, Joanna (Meryl Streep), is leaving him and their young son, Billy (Justin Henry). Forced to raise his son alone, Ted loses his job but gains a stronger relationship with the child with the help of another single parent, Margaret (Jane Alexander). When Joanna returns to claim custody of Billy, the ensuing court battle takes a toll on everyone concerned.



Mrs. Doubtfire - Devastated by a court order limiting his time with the children, Williams's character disguises himself as a warm, old British nanny who becomes the kids' best friend.



Bye Bye Love - With varying degrees of success, recently divorced friends Dave (Matthew Modine), Vic (Randy Quaid) and Donny (Paul Reiser) are trying to move on with their lives. Vic feels villified by his ex-wife's parents, while Donny has a shaky bond with his teen daughter, Emma (Eliza Dushku).

Dave, meanwhile, has an enviable problem-- he has more dates than he can handle. As they confront their post-marital challenges, the men take solace in one another's plights.



Taking the "Duh" out of Divorce

Is it all just a bad dream? Skye's parents have just dropped a bombshell- they're getting divorced! Is it her fault? She's hurt, she's angry and she believes she's the only one who can keep her mom and dad together. Exhausted, she falls asleep and finds herself

in the middle of a dream where she has taken her parents to court in a last-ditch attempt to deny their divorce?!?! With Jack representing the defense and Trevor sitting in as the judge, Skye attempts to prove that her parent's divorce is undesirable, unnecessary and most importantly, totally unfair to her! I mean- what are her friends going to think? How can she live in two houses at the same time? What about holidays? How can they be so selfish? And so she presents her case. There are no easy answers, but. Using gentle humor, original music and a compelling storyline, Trevor Romain uses Skye's experience to give kids practical, helpful advice for dealing with the pain of divorce- such as knowing that it isn't their fault, they shouldn't take sides, don't hide their emotions and talking to friends can really help. After all, as Skye discovers, her parents aren't divorcing her- they love her!



The Purple Family – Created for divorcing parents and their children, the Purple Family video provides insight on difficult issues that arise when separation occurs. In the video, all family members

live in a world that is purple, a balanced mixture of red and blue. But as signs of separation appear, husband and wife and all surroundings turn distinctly red or blue.