

Child Care & Early Education **RESEARCH CONNECTIONS**

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Child Care and Early Education for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Families: Research-to- Policy Resources

The early care and education (ECE) system serves a diverse range of families from many different backgrounds, structures, and capacities. There are varying estimates, but between 2 and 4 percent of American adults identify as LGBT (Gates, 2015), and this percentage has grown over the past five years (Gates, 2017). In 2016, Gallup estimated that nearly 2 million Americans were in same-sex marriages or were living with a same-sex partner (Jones, 2016). Estimates based on 2011 American Community Survey data indicate that the number of children under 18 being raised by an LGBT parent ranges from 2 to 4 million, with approximately 200,000 being raised by same-sex couples (Gates, 2013). Analyses of 2013 National Health Interview Survey data yield similar estimates (Gates, 2014).

In recognition that working with this growing population presents special considerations for providers, the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families early childhood training and technical assistance system, produced a resource series to help ECE programs build strong relationships with LGBT parents and families (Head Start Early Learning and Knowledge Center, n. d.).



This Research-to-Policy Resource List compiles empirical research on American LGBT families' experiences with ECE and providers' experiences and preparation for working with LGBT families. The three reviews that begin the list summarize the research literature published through 2012. The remaining resources on the list include the research literature published after the period covered by those reviews. They have been divided into those that focus on LGBT families and those that focus on providers.

Reviews of Research Conducted Prior to 2012

- Averett, P., Hegde, A. V., & Smith, J. (2017). Lesbian and gay parents in early childhood settings: A systematic review of the research literature. *Journal of Early Childhood Research*, 15(1), 34-46.
- Cloughessy, K., & Waniganayake, M. (2014). Early childhood educators working with children who have lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents: What does the literature tell us? *Early Child Development and Care*, 184(8), 1267-1280.
- Duke, T., & McCarthy, K. W. (2009). Homophobia, sexism, and early childhood education: A review of the literature. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, 30(4), 385-403.

Research Published since 2012 on the ECE Experiences of LGBT Families

- Goldberg, A. E. (2014). Lesbian, gay, and heterosexual adoptive parents' experiences in preschool environments. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 29(4), 669-681.
- Goldberg, A. E., Black, K., Sweeney, K., & Moyer, A. (2017). Lesbian, gay, and heterosexual adoptive parents' perceptions of inclusivity and receptiveness in early childhood education settings. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 31(1), 141-159.
- Goldberg, A. E., & Smith, J. Z. (2014). Preschool selection considerations and experiences of school mistreatment among lesbian, gay, and heterosexual adoptive parents. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 29(1), 64-75.
- Goldberg, A. E., & Smith, J. Z. (2017). Parent-school relationships and young adopted children's psychological adjustment in lesbian-, gay-, and heterosexual-parent families. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 40, 174-187.
- Glass, V. Q., Willox, L., Barrow, K. M., & Jones, S. (2016). Struggling to move beyond acknowledgment: Celebrating gay and lesbian families in preschool environments. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, 12(3), 217-241.

Research Published since 2012 on ECE Provider Perspectives on Serving LGBT Families

- Averett, P., & Hegde, A. V. (2012). School social work and early childhood student's attitudes toward gay and lesbian families. *Teaching in Higher Education*, 17(5), 537-549.
- Beren, M. (2013). Gay and lesbian families in the early childhood classroom: Evaluation of an online professional development course. *LEARNing Landscapes*, 7(1), 61-79.
- Church, J., Hedge, A., Averett, P., & Ballard, S. M. (2018). Early childhood administrators' attitudes and experiences in working with gay- and lesbian-parented families. *Early Child Development and Care*, 188(3), 264-280.

- Glass, V. Q., Willox, L., Barrow, K. M., & Jones, S. (2016). Struggling to move beyond acknowledgment: Celebrating gay and lesbian families in preschool environments. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, 12(3), 217-241.
- Hedge, A., Averett, P., White, C., & Deese, S. (2014). Examining preschool teachers' attitudes, comfort, action orientation and preparation to work with children reared by gay and lesbian parents. *Early Child Development and Care*, 184(7), 963-976.
- Kintner-Duffy, V. L., Vardell, R., Lower, J. K., & Cassidy, D. J. (2012). "The changers and the changed": Preparing early childhood teachers to work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, 33(3), 208-223.

References

- Gates, G. J. (2013). *LGBT parenting in the United States*. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA School of Law, Williams Institute.
- Gates, G. J. (2014). *LGBT families and relationships: Analyses of the 2013 National Health Interview Survey*. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA School of Law, Williams Institute.
- Gates, G. J. (2015). Marriage and family: LGBT individuals and same-sex couples. *The Future of Children*, 25(2), 67-87.
- Gates, G. J. (2017). *In U.S., more adults identifying as LGBT*. Washington, DC: Gallup.
- Head Start Early Learning and Knowledge Center. (n. d.). *Creating a welcoming early childhood program for LGBT-headed families*. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/article/creating-welcoming-early-childhood-program-lgbt-headed-families>
- Jones, J. M. (2016). *Same-sex marriages up one year after Supreme Court verdict*. Washington, DC: Gallup.

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