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Hi there! Thank you so, so much for picking up The GayBCs! I know that talking about gender, sexuality, and LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and more!) issues with kids can be challenging, so I hope reading The GayBCs with your small human(s) makes it easier and more fun!

This guide has simple and clever ideas for talking about the words and concepts explored in The GayBCs in order to deepen the contextual understanding with your kids. You can do these activities one-on-one or with a group. If you’re a kid, you can do these activities on your own with a bit of support from a grown-up!

Happy learning!

M L Webb

M. L. Webb
Author and illustrator of The GayBCs
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When did you first hear about LGBTQIA+ people?
   
   • If reading this book is the first time, ask: Why do you think this is the first time you’ve heard about LGBTQIA+ people? Discuss reasons they may not have learned before, like what role media plays, what they learn in school, the place they live or their family structure, etc., without placing blame. Help them think through what might have prevented them from learning more about diverse people in their lives.
   
   • If they name a specific person, event, media experience, or memory, ask them to tell you more. Take an interest in helping them put into words what they learned or saw.

2. What new words did you learn from The GayBCs? Which new word do you like the most? What do you like about it?

3. Have you ever heard someone say something negative or bad about LGBTQIA+ people? What was it? How do you feel about it?

4. Why is it important to care about people who are different from you as well as people who are like you?

5. How do we learn more about people who are different from us?
ACTIVITY: Queer Your Screen Time

Watch a few episodes of a cartoon or children’s show. While watching or immediately after, fill out this sheet. (Younger kids can talk through these questions with a grown-up’s help after viewing.)

How many characters are:
_____ girls
_____ boys
_____ nonbinary

Are any of the characters out as:
_____ cisgender
_____ transgender
_____ intersex
_____ bisexual
_____ gay
_____ lesbian
_____ queer
_____ pansexual
_____ asexual

Did you see a family on the show that looks like your family?
_____ yes
_____ no

Did you see a character on the show who is similar to you?
_____ yes
_____ no

Discuss:
• Do you like to see characters and families that are like you? If so, why?
• Would you like to see more characters in your favorite movies and shows with diverse identities and families? Why or why not?
ACTIVITY: LGBTQIA+ History Worksheet

Here are some famous people who were LGBTQIA. Assign your child(ren) to pick one of these people and learn more about them by searching online or at the library. Or research together in order to fill out this history worksheet.

Frida Kahlo  "Ma" Rainey  Sylvia Rivera  Bayard Rustin
Lou Sullivan  Alan Turing  Harvey Milk  Ellen Degeneres
Lucy Hicks Anderson  Joan of Arc  Chavela Vargas  Janet Mock  Leslie Feinberg

What is the person’s name? ________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

What pronouns does the person use?_______________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Where does the person live?______________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Why is the person cool? What did they do?_________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

What do you like about the person?_______________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
ACTIVITY: That’s So Gay

Sometimes people say things that are mean. Sometimes they say them to us. Sometimes they say them to other people and we see it happen. Sometimes we might say something mean and not know why it’s bad. One of the things that people sometimes say is “That’s so gay,” to communicate that something is bad.

Ask your child or children:

• Have you ever heard someone make fun of gay people or say “That’s so gay”?

• What does it mean to call something “gay” in a mean way? Do you know why it’s bad?

Explain: It’s because people are saying that being gay is a bad thing. Below are some things you can say if you overhear people making fun of someone or something because it’s “so gay.”

Practice these responses so you’re ready the next time someone says it or anytime someone says something mean about LGBTQIA+ people. It helps to know what you want to say in advance so you have a plan!

Practice these responses:

• “Being gay/trans is not a bad thing. It’s a good thing!”

• “I don’t like it when you say that. It’s mean.”

• “That’s not true and it’s not funny.”

• “That’s not OK. Please stop saying that.”
Next, role-play these brief scenarios to practice using the responses:

- You see a child on the playground tell another child that their shirt is “gay” and then laugh at them. What do you say?

- Your hear a teacher at school say that transgender people are bad. What do you say?

- A friend says, “That’s so gay,” about a book you are reading. What do you say?

Debrief Questions

- How did it feel to stand up for yourself or for others?

- Was it easy or hard? Why?

- Does it feel harder or easier if the person is a friend, adult, or stranger?

- What would make you feel more comfortable speaking up?

- Do you think you could use these phrases in real life when you hear someone saying bad things about LGBTQIA+ people?

- What can I do to help you feel comfortable using these phrases?

- Do you want to practice some more?
ACTIVITY: Rainbow-By-Number Coloring Page

Let’s learn about the rainbow flag! The rainbow flag is a symbol of LGBTQIA+ pride. Color the rainbow flag on the next page according to the numbers below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Sunlight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Indigo (Blue)</td>
<td>Serenity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Violet (Purple)</td>
<td>Spirit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pride Flag Facts:

- The rainbow flag was created in 1978 by the visual artist Gilbert Baker in San Francisco for the Pride Parade.

- Baker made the Guinness Book of World Records in 1994 by creating the largest flag ever: a rainbow pride flag for San Francisco’s 25th anniversary Pride Parade that was one mile long and 30 feet wide!

- The typical pride flag has six colors. The original had two additional colors: pink and turquoise.

- More recently, two colors are sometimes added to the flag: brown and black. These stripes represent the importance of including LGBTQIA+ people of color.
A playdate extravaganza transforms into a celebration of friendship, love, and identity as four friends sashay out of all the closets, dress up in a wardrobe fit for kings and queens, and discover the wonder of imagination.

From **A is for Ally** to **F is for Family** to **Q is for Queer**, debut author/illustrator M. L. Webb’s bright illustrations and lively, inclusive poems delight in the beauty of embracing one’s truest self.

**M. L. Webb** is an author, illustrator, and graphic designer who spends his free time getting lost in Central Park. He was born and raised in McMinnville, Tennessee, and now lives in New York City.

For more information, visit QuirkBooks.com