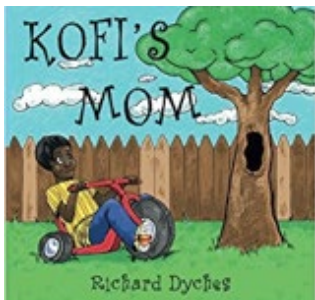




These books about children of incarcerated parents act as a resource for parents, caregivers, providers, and policy makers about the diverse needs and experiences of children of incarcerated parents. Making books available in spaces children and families can access, such as classrooms, libraries, and offices can convey to children with incarcerated parents they are not alone and signal that you or your organization are supportive of families affected by incarceration. **We recommend reviewing a book to ensure it is appropriate for your needs.** Books are listed according to recommended audience age.

*Information herein was obtained from online reviews and book sellers; prices are estimates.*

### AGES 3-8



#### **KOFI'S MOM, Richard Dyches**

Ages : Young Children (3-5)

Price : \$7.95

Kofi's Mom is a story about Kofi whose mother is sent to prison. It explores his feelings of loss and confusion. Through friends at school, Kofi begins to talk about his mom and look forward to her return.

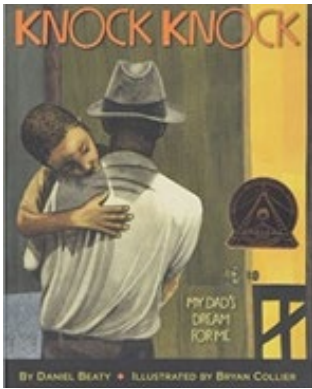


#### **WHAT IS JAIL, MOMMY? & MAMI, QUE ES UNA CARCEL?, Jackie Stanglin**

Ages : Young Children (3-8)

Price : \$14.50

When the truth is withheld from children they tend to blame themselves for others mistakes and short-comings. It is incumbent on each of us to provide age-appropriate facts to young inquiring minds. What Is Jail, Mommy? not only explains why the parent is incarcerated but what his/ her life is like.



### **KNOCK, KNOCK: MY DAD'S DREAM FOR ME, Daniel Beaty**

Ages: Young Children (5-8)

Price \$13.43

This powerful and inspiring book shows the love an absent parent can leave behind and the strength children find in themselves as they grow up and follow their dreams.



### **OUR MOMS, Q. Futrell**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$11.99

Meet Michael, Paul, Jennifer, and Anne! All children are different in many ways, but all have one thing in common, their moms are in prison. This book serves as a conversation starter for such a sensitive issue that impacts children in the US.

---

## **AGES 5-10**

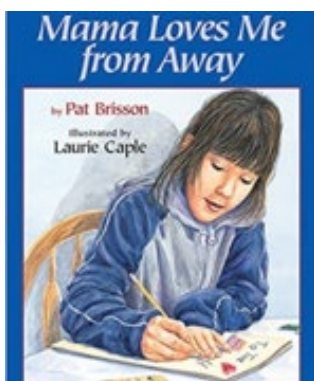


### **MY DADDY IS IN JAIL: STORY, DISCUSSION GUIDE, AND SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES K-5, Janet Bender**

Ages: Young Children (5-10)

Price : \$14.95

With this book, helping professionals, and other caring adults, will find themselves better equipped to provide information and support to vulnerable children and their families.



### **MAMA LOVES ME FROM AWAY, Pat Brisson & Laurie Caple**

Ages: Young Children (5-8)

Price \$8.72

The relationship between a mother and daughter is pushed to its limits when Mama is incarcerated.

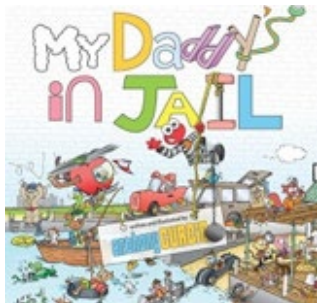


### **KENNEDY'S BIG VISIT, Daphne Brooks**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$12.95

Kennedy's Big Visit is a poignant children's story about a father and daughter bond that is unbreakable, despite their unique challenges.

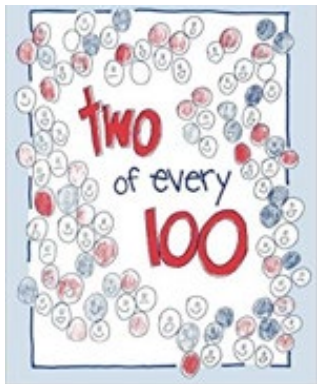


### **MY DADDY'S IN JAIL, Anthony Curcio**

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

Price : \$9.48

There are nearly three million adults in the U.S. alone who are in prison or jail. Many of whom leave behind unanswered questions with their children, like: What is jail? Why did this happen? Is it my fault? Is my daddy or mommy bad? Do they love me? My Daddy's in Jail is a story of two bears who have a father in prison. The book was written by a formerly incarcerated parent.

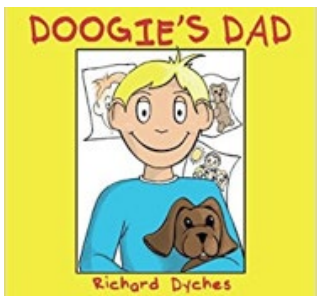


### **TWO OF EVERY 100, Richard Dyches**

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

Price : \$9.95

In a group of 100 kids, could you pick out which two have a parent in prison? Of course you can't. Kids who have a parent in prison look just like any other kid! These children have special needs which they often have trouble verbalizing. The exercises in the workbook are designed to be conversation starters to facilitate children talking about their concerns and feelings.

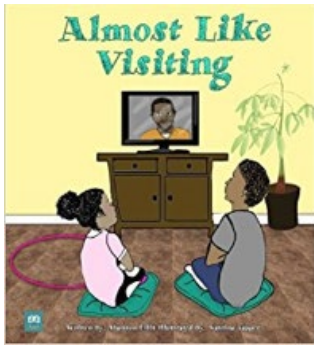


### **DOOGIE'S DAD, Richard Dyches**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$7.95

This story is about Doogie, a young boy, and his sister whose father is sent to prison. It explores their feelings of loss, fear, and frustration at not being told what's going on until their mom finally takes them to visit their dad in prison.



### **ALMOST LIKE VISITING, Shannon Ellis and Katrina Tapper**

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

Price : \$10.00

Almost Like Visiting is about feelings and emotions children with an incarcerated parent may experience before, during, and after visiting their parent in prison. The book primarily focuses on video visiting and is a great resource for children with an incarcerated loved one and also serves to provide valuable information to their peers.



### **HELP FOR KIDS!: UNDERSTANDING YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT HAVING A PARENT IN PRISON OR JAIL, Carole Gesme, Michele Kodpfmann, and Lisa Schmoker**

Ages : 5-10

Price : \$9.52

An activity workbook that explores the many mixed-up feelings that accompany the absence of a parent due to incarceration. It teaches peer pressure responses, provides tools for problem-solving, and helps students accept their feelings.

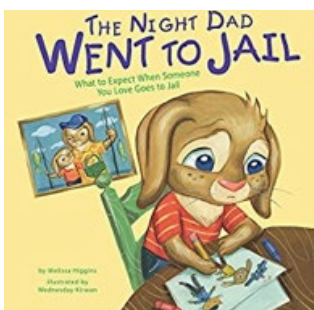


### **WAITING FOR DADDY, Jennie Lou Harriman and Kylie Ann Flye**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$7.99

This is a story about a young girl, who wants more than anything to be with her father, but cannot because he is in prison. She discovers many ways to cope with her loss through creative expression, the natural world, and play.



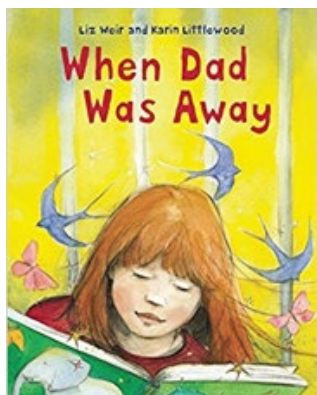
### **THE NIGHT DAD WENT TO JAIL, Melissa Higgins**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$5.00

When someone you love goes to jail, you might feel lost, scared, and even mad. What do you do? No matter who your loved one is, this story can help you through the tough times.



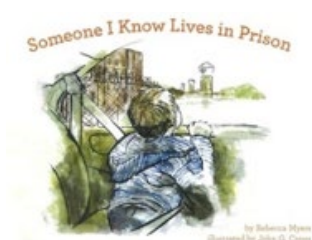


## **WHEN DAD WAS AWAY, Karin Littlewood and Liz Weir**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$16.09

When Mum tells Milly that Dad has been sent to prison, Milly feels angry and confused. She can't believe her dad won't be at home to read her stories and make her laugh. But soon Mum takes Milly and her brother Sam to visit Dad in prison, and a week later a special package arrives at home – a CD of Milly's favorite animal stories, read especially for her by Dad.

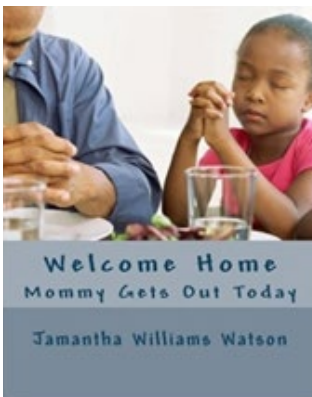


## **SOMEONE I KNOW LIVES IN PRISON, Rebecca Myers**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : N/A

A young person visits an incarcerated family member and explains the many rules and procedures of a prison visit. Watercolor pictures accompany the text with images of visitors, incarcerated people, and prison employees.

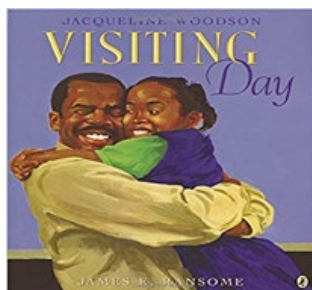


## **WELCOME HOME: MOMMY GETS OUT TODAY, Jamantha Williams Watson**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$9.00

When Bernice and her favorite cousin, Malaika meet Bernice's mother for the first time, the girls share similar emotions while learning about society, familial, and gender issues. Written primarily for students in grades 1st through 3rd, this story aids youth who are experiencing the return of a parent who has been incarcerated.



## **VISITING DAY, Jacqueline Woodson & James Ransome**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Price : \$5.00

In this moving picture book, a young girl and her grandmother prepare for a very special day—the one day a month they get to visit the girl's father in prison.

---

## AGES 8-10+



### **WHERE'S DAD?, Richard Dyches and Korky Paul**

Ages : Young Children (8-10)

Price : \$8.95

The story of an eight-year old dreamer of a boy, who imagines himself in a series of fantasy adventures as he tries to find out why the police have taken his dad away.



### **EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES: LIVING WITH MY DADDY IN JAIL, Madison Strempek**

Ages : Young Children (10+)

Price : \$10.99

Take a heartwarming journey with 10-year-old author, Madison Strempek, as she candidly depicts her life experience of living with her father in jail. Through her eyes, you will live the heartbreak of her life changing news, discover how she survives with her embarrassing secret, and ultimately finds resolution and strength in understanding everyone makes mistakes.

---

## AGES 11+

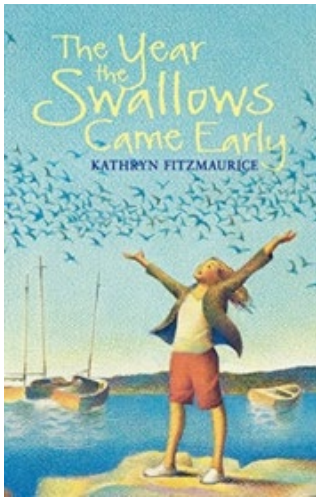


### **RUBY ON THE OUTSIDE, Nora Raleigh Baskin**

Ages: Older Children (11+)

Price \$7.99

In this novel that sensitively addresses a subject too often overlooked, eleven-year-old Ruby Danes is about to start middle school and only her aunt knows her deepest, darkest, most secret secret: her mother is in prison.

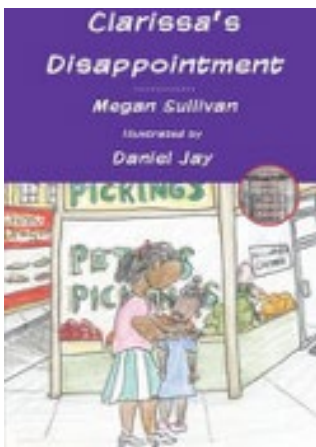


## **THE YEAR THE SWALLOWS CAME EARLY, Kathryn Fitzmaurice**

Ages : Older Children (11+)

Price : \$6.99

The year Eleanor ‘Groovy’ Robinson turns eleven—suddenly, her father is in jail, her best friend’s long-absent mother reappears, and the swallows that make their annual migration to her hometown arrive surprisingly early. Groovy learns about the importance of forgiveness, understands the complex stories of the people around her, and realizes that even an earthquake can’t get in the way of a family that needs to come together.

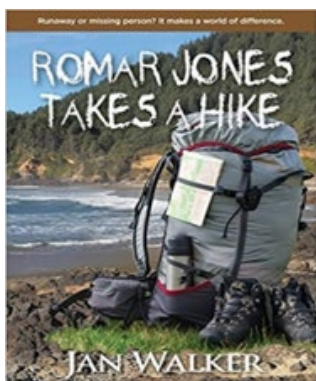


## **CLARISSA'S DISAPPOINTMENT, Megan Sullivan**

Ages : Young Children (5-12) & Parents

Price : \$14.00

Two books in one, Clarissa’s Disappointment combines a moving children’s story of Clarissa waiting for her father to come home from prison with resources to assist the families, teachers and counselors of children of incarcerated parents.



## **ROMAR JONES TAKES A HIKE, Jan Walker**

Ages: Older Children (11+)

Price : \$14.61

When his 9th grade language arts teacher tells him to pay attention to the poetry assignment or take a hike, Romar opts for the hike and embarks on a journey to find his mother. He figures that shouldn’t be too hard. She’s in prison in Washington.

## **“WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?”**



**TO ME?”**

Every night, approximately three million children go to bed with a parent in prison or jail. Here are their thoughts and stories.



by HOWARD ZEHK and LORRAINE STUTZMAN AMSTUTZ  
portraits by HOWARD ZEHK

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?, Howard Zehr**

Ages : Older Kids

Price : \$8.00

This book brings together photographic portraits of 30 children whose parents are incarcerated, along with their thoughts and reflections, in their own words. As Taylor says, “I want other kids to know that, even though your parents are locked up, they’re not bad people.”