

LGBTQ PARENTING RESOURCES

OPTIONS TO PARENTING

IVF/DONOR EGG SURROGACY

In Vitro Fertilization, or IVF, is an option by which an embryo is created by combining an egg and sperm in a laboratory dish. If the egg is successfully fertilized, it is transferred to a surrogate's uterus. The egg can be the surrogate's own or the egg of another woman, in which case the surrogate is called a gestational carrier.

DONOR SPERM

Couples may receive donated sperm through fertility clinics. Donors are screened for certain diseases and genetic disorders.

ADOPTION

Same-sex couples can legally adopt in Oregon, and if the couple is registered as a domestic partnership, the couple can adopt jointly. Adoption is a lifelong commitment. Most adoptive children are school-aged and have special needs related to abuse or neglect they've experienced.

FOSTERING

Children whose families cannot provide for them are sometimes placed in foster care through the Department of Human Services. Foster care situations are temporary but can become long term or lead to adoption. People of any sexual orientation can be foster parents.

CO-PARENTING

Co-parenting is typically an arrangement between a gay man and a lesbian woman who team up to parent a child together, often while not living in the same home. The term is also used to describe the relationship between two separated or divorced parents attempting to raise a child.

PARENTING GROUPS and RESOURCES

DADDIES & PAPAS

3rd Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi Ave
Daddies and Papas is a group for gay, bisexual and transgender men raising young children. Topics range from the best way to deal with biting to what to say when schoolmates tease children about having two fathers. info@daddiesandpapas.net

PLOP

Parenting/Pregnant Lesbians of Portland is a group of lesbian moms and their families that gathers monthly. The group aims to provide a place where families can get support on issues unique to lesbian parents. The group is also a resource for lesbian couples who are thinking about having a child. ploppdx.wordpress.com or plop.admin@gmail.com

QPoP

4th Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi Ave
Queer Parents of Portland is for all queer parents no matter the gender or family structure. This group embraces transgender parents, polyamorous parents and single parents, among others. Children are welcome. QPoP has a group on Facebook.

QUIP

Queers United In Parenting PDX is a web-based Google group for queer parents. It's billed as "an open forum for queers of all stripes from Hip Mamas to TransParents to Rad Dads to discuss queer parenting issues, exchange stories, resources, and encouragement, and arrange meet-ups and gatherings." Find it on Google Groups.

STORY TIME WITH MARIA

2nd Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. at Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi Ave.
Live reading for children age 0-5 years and their families. Librarian Maria Lowe reads stories and adapts songs and movement activities for the ages and attention spans of the children attending. pdxqcenter.org/ongoing-events/storytime-with-maria/

LGBTQ ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

3rd Tuesdays, 6 p.m. at Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi Ave
Adoption Mosaic hosts a free monthly parenting support group. This group is open to prospective and current LGBTQ adoptive parents. The group offers the support, information and tools necessary to nurture healthy LGBTQ families. Contact astrid@adoptionmosaic.org or visit adoptionmosaic.org.

SURROGACY

NW SURROGACY

One of the leading surrogacy centers working with LGBT community members is right here in Portland. nwsurrogacycenter.com

REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

OREGON REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

A leader for LGBT parents starting or growing their families, ORM welcomes gay patients from around the world. IUI/IVF & DE/IVF. OregonReproductiveMedicine.com

ADOPTION/FOSTERCARE

OPEN ADOPTION & FAMILY SERVICES (OAFS)

No other adoption agency in the country places more infants with gay and lesbian parents than OAFS. openadopt.org

NORTHWEST ADOPTION EXCHANGE

No better way to connect families with waiting foster children in the Northwest. nwae.org

STATE OF OREGON FOSTER CARE

There is always a need for quality foster parents. Thousands of children await good homes. oregon.gov/DHS/children/fostercare

ADOPTION NORTHWEST

Founded by the same attorney who founded OAFS, they work with gay and lesbian clients from around the country in adoption. adoptionnorthwest.com

ATTORNEYS

REDDEN & FINDLING LLP

This firm is skilled in adoption facilitation and legal work and LGBT supporters. reddenfindling.com

DISCLAIMER:

The information provided here is purely for education and is not intended as a recommendation for adults or children. Parents and those thinking of parenting should seek out trusted resources, including personal and professional referral sources, before proceeding.