

## **"Queer Parenting 101"**

### **Creating Change 2018**

### **Washington, DC**

This is the transcription of the butcher block and post it note questions participants wrote at the beginning of the session. Check marks indicate folks who seconded, thirded certain questions/topics. Topics are listed alphabetical.

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#### **Adoption/Foster**

- √√- Queer/homo/trans phobia in the system
- √- Does the system care if couples are officially married?
- Is it difficult to adopt/foster if you're aromantic or otherwise don't have a partner?
- Do Foster Programs work with queer/trans families? Partners? Individuals?
- Long time frame for adoption and proving you're ready to agencies enough time in advance (want kids post-grad school but wouldn't seem like a "good parent" mid-grad school)
- Financial barriers
- Navigating the explanation of my trans identity to children coming from non-queer/lgbt spaces
- Advocating in my child's school for adoption representation in the curriculum. The dreaded family tree project etc.
- Navigating the explanation of my trans identity to children coming from non-queer/lgbt spaces
- adoption process and non-binary parenting tips for it

#### **External** (family issues outside your immediate household)

- √√- Invisibility as a non-biological co-parent
- √- When to be proactive vs. reactive about discussing family - daycare, school, etc.
- Gender/sexuality/spirituality
- √- Whose last names do the kids get?
- Parenting rights that come with marriage & domestic partnership
- How to get people to stop assuming my child's gender/addressing strangers re: all the wild shit they say to kids
- How do I talk about my role in co-parenting my friend's niblings to non-queer/community?
- Dealing with homophobia, especially from relatives
- How to respond to invasive and rude questions about parenting style/how you got your kid.
- How to talk about your family with extended family?

## **General**

- No longer queer, perception that if you're a parent and/or in "hetero-looking" family that you are no longer interested in rainbow community.
- How do I reconnect with my adult children who walked out of my life over a decade ago? How do I help them explain me to their friends, etc. now that I found them.
- Parenting a child with sensory processing disorder
- Dealing w/LGBTQ family spaces that aren't queer/trans open
- Dealing with invisibility in queer & straight cis spaces as a family w/queer/trans parents who are read as straight/cis
- Gender open/creative parenting explaining/responses
- Sperm donor pregnancies - negotiating Qs, choices, process, etc.
- How do I find other queer families in my community? (small town in Oregon)
- Conversation about new partners/parental figures step siblings from cis/het formations

## **Internal** (issues/questions of parenting within your household)

- The child favors one parent (in a 2 or more parent home) and it is very painful for the parent(s) who is/are left out.
- Parent 1 - biological parent of a 5 and 13 year old. New partner - older queer, never parented. How to move forward with the kids and the neighbors.
- How do you explain queerness/queer identities to your kids?
- How to prepare kids re: potential discrimination they might face?
- Any experiences with other family members (not a parenting partner) being an egg/sperm donor?
- Blended families - ? Of "step children" from
- How to handle bio and adopted kids
- How to explain original body parts
- How to handle gendering/not-gendering your kids
- √√- How kids address same gender parents (or do you call both kids "mom")?
- What unexpected emotional challenges come up and what skills do you find helpful in addressing them?
- How non-queer parents can better support their queer children/be better allies
- √- How was the "talk" or what would be your response to "where do babies come from"?
- How to explain where they came from?
- Cultivating a family faith practice
- How to determine language for family members to call you (trans/nb specific language)
- How to combat transphobia in extended family
- √- We are 2 Dads - now we have a daughter. How do we have "those" conversations?

## **Multi-Transracial**

- √√- How do white parents talk to their POC children about racism, white supremacy and the need for racial justice?

- √- Raising a child in a multi-racial and cross cultural household and how to navigate prioritizing two dominate cultures and minority races.
- √- Considerations for inter-racial couples wanting to adopt/get pregnant
- √- White/POC partners wondering about ethics of choosing race of potential donor
  - Black daughter w/two white moms wants to talk about family ethnic heritage wants inclusion in Irish, etc. Heritage but we want to give her access to her heritage. (also adoption)
  - Not a lot of resources re: our heritages. How to promote cultural competency in our queer spawn.
  - General trans/gnc tips for parenting

### **Multi-spiritual/Spirituality**

- exposure to all identities of family, race, spirituality ,etc
- when to address at what age

### **Trans Parenting**

- √√- Navigating non-binary/non passing family structures
- √√- How to handle a child questioning gender identity
- √- How to know what names our kids should call us? (Beyond 'dad' and 'mom')
- Policies protecting trans parents?
- Gender Roles?
- I am non-binary and am concerned with not having a parenting community to connect with that don't have to explain my identity to
- Non-binary/non-gendered parent names
- How to explain your trans/non-binary identity/transphobia and terms to children
- and their friends from non-lgbt families
- Dealing with cis/heteronormative extended family
  - grandparents
  - aunts/uncles ?? (what's the gender neutral term for this???)
  - cousins