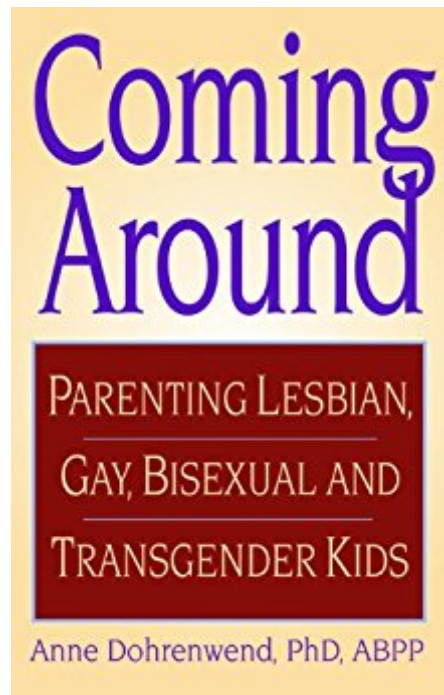


The book was found

# Coming Around: Parenting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, And Transgender Kids



## Synopsis

When a child confides these words to a parent, they can totally transform the relationship. Whether that results in a closer bond or a broken one is dependent upon the parent's ability to accept, nurture and honor the child, whatever his or her sexual orientation. *Coming Around* is a resource for understanding and coming to terms with a child's sexual orientation and maintaining a dialogue between parent and child. With compassion and wisdom, Dohrenwend addresses parents' fears regarding what to say and what not to say, bigotry and social and religious prejudice, the legal issues facing LGBT individuals and how to understand homophobia. Most important, she shares how to communicate that, whatever happens with a child's sexual or gender orientation, parents will never withdraw their love. Coming out is a vulnerable time. Its announcement requires the re-exploration of a parent's personal feelings on homosexuality. Respecting your child's decisions isn't always easy, particularly if you fear his or her decisions will cost friends, ambitions, acceptance and respect. This is a rich resource, jam-packed with insights, information and practical guidance for parents of gay, bisexual and transgender children, as well as an indispensable reference for therapists, clergy, educators and psychological self-help collections.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Anne Dohrenwend has presented to the public a book that is far more valuable than she probably realizes. She comes to her mission of 'parenting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender kids' with a depth of experience that is impressive (she is involved in teaching medical residents and in being a therapist certified in Clinical Health Psychology), but her gift is that of a credible and genuinely concerned writer who has that ability to hold a reader's attention even on a tough topic for some parents. What this book offers is a solid resource and discussions about sexuality, the terminology, the histories of people whose sexual and gender choices are away from that ominous 'midline of normalcy', the problems LGBT citizens face on a daily basis (bigotry, social and religious prejudices, bullying, physical harm and even death): the generous format of the book is the tenderness in which she presents to families (parent AND children whose sexuality strays from the norm) the sound, grounded advice on how to manage the situation of sharing feelings and in turn responding to differences in a caring and loving manner. Within the covers of this book Dohrenwend encourages and instructs parents in compassionate and pragmatic tools to assist their dealing with the fact that they have children whose sexuality is a minority group. But in the author's words, 'The book is largely geared toward coming out during the age of adolescence and young adulthood. I believe it will be useful for those with adult children who've come out later in life as well. Many of the struggles are the same, regardless of age.

This book should be a must read for schoolteachers and administrators, physicians and clinicians (particularly pediatricians), and any others who may be called upon to intervene in issues of the developing child. Particularly, the book deals with parenting of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender children. So if you are involved with gay children and their parents, you should read this book. However, many of the book's chapters have much broader applicability. To be fair, I am not completely unbiased as a reviewer of this book, as I know Dr. Anne Dohrenwend professionally and personally. I am a practicing physician, and her professional advice has helped me in caring for gay and transgender patients and understanding their unique concerns. She is very well respected in the community, albeit not (yet) famous. While she is moderately outspoken, her passion is helping individuals and families, and her contributions have been mostly clinical and on a one-by-one basis. It is hard to save the world one-by-one, so I am glad she has finally put much of her teachings in a book format. I learned about Dr. Dohrenwend's upcoming book after reading an insightful article she

published in the Journal of the American Medical Association several months ago. The book has lived up to my expectations. I do not have (as far as I know) a gay child, but I find that much of the book's chapters can be equally applied to any other group of individuals that is stereotyped. Thus, "Dissecting Stereotypes", "Casualty Cruelty", and "Bullying" address issues of concern for all parents. How would you deal with the situation if you found that your child was being cruelly bullied for something s/he believed in? It could be that your child is gay, but Dr.

In this day and age most people have a different perspective on life and thoughts in regards to the different races, religions and even marriage. But, there is one thing that could tip the scales to change the thought process. For example, let's say your son or daughter comes home with someone they care about and this friend is either of a different race, religion or is of the same sex, what is your reaction? Would this teeter you over to one side? The one scenario that still has some growing pains is the issue of being gay. If you are a parent who isn't sure what to do or what to expect when your child announces they are gay, Anne Dohrenwend PhD ABPP, has created a helpful tool that will get you the answers you need. This short informative read covers five key issues: Tempering First Reactions, Homophobia, The Path To Healthy Adulthood, Health & Sexuality and The Fight For Equality. Each of these topics is broken down into more detailed chapters that actually get to the meat of "Coming Around." Ann first introduces readers to the terms used by LGBTQs group. If you think you are a liberal you may still experience an emotional reaction such as: shock, guilt, disappointment, shame, fear, and anger. According to Anne, "For some of you, the shock of discovering your child is gay is complicated by the fact s/he wouldn't or still won't talk about it or even lied about it, perhaps for years. You don't know whether to blame your child for not trusting you or to blame yourself for not being perceived as trustworthy." Anne covers what to say and what not to say so that you can avoid any further pain or mistrust. It's not just about reading, there are actual accounts and shared stories here too. Jeff's story was a story that many gay teens found familiar.

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