

Dinosaurs Divorce: A Guide for Changing Families

Reading Guide

Author/Illustrator: Laurie Krasny Brown & Marc Brown

Themes: divorce, changing families

Lesson/Notes: This book is an informative and helpful guide for children whose parents are getting divorced. It may bring up worries as it addresses parents' potential "new friends" and stepfamilies; however, children likely are already concerned about this. It is better to give children clear, age-appropriate information rather than let them imagine their own (possibly scary) ideas of the future. They will also learn that it's good for them to talk about their feelings.

Remember, your parents' divorce is not your fault. They still love you, and you can still love both of them. It is helpful to share your feelings with people you trust.

Discussion Questions

- p. 6-7: Do your feelings about divorce match any of these pictures?
- What do you think is the most difficult part of divorce?
- Can you still love both of your parents? (yes)

Activity: Love Them Both

Supplies: page 2, markers

- This activity is generally intended for situations in which the child will continue to spend time with each parent. Use your discernment to determine if this activity is appropriate to the child's situation. Some situations (especially cases of abuse, neglect, or abandonment) require professional attention and may not make sense with this activity.
 - If you're unsure, provide an open-ended art activity such as "Draw how you feel about the divorce."
 - Many children benefit from meeting with a licensed mental health professional when their parents go through a divorce. Parents may want to talk with their child's school counselor or pediatrician for a referral.

Draw a picture of something you like to do with your dad:



Draw a picture of something you like to do with your mom: