



pact's

point of view

The newsletter for adoptive families with children of color

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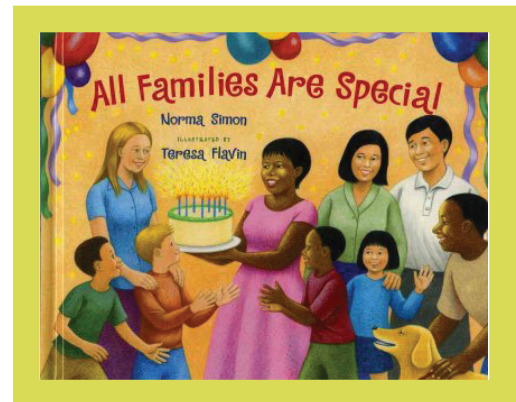
## **Book Review**

### **All Families Are Special**

**By Norma Simon**

**Illustrated by Teresa Flavin**

**\$15.95**



Beginning with an adoptive family, Norma Simon does a great job of describing the wide variety that exists among families. Big and small, one parent or two, adoptive or kinship, two mom's or none, she has made sure there is variety and validation for each and every constellation she describes and those she does not.

In the prologue she describes her own point of view about the importance of how kids view their kind of family in the context of their world. Kinship plays a significant role in shaping the personality and self-image of every child in a family... the typical family picture of fifty years ago has undergone many changes... This book invites children to describe their own family group, and, through these discussions, to realize and appreciate all the ways their families are special, very special.

With vivid illustrations, the author describes many different families, configured in many different ways and of many different races and ethnicities. Each family is talked about in terms that preschoolers and young schoolagers will relate to with funny little anecdotes that keep the book lively and interesting despite its length. Simon ends the book by talking about the ways families support each other during good times and bad.

A very sweet book that affirms the differences between us while underscoring the significance of families. A good book for discussions, one that invites the reader to describe his or her own family and think of times or circumstances when families celebrate happy things or support each other when sad things happen. Ideal for classroom use or to curl up in a big chair and read with that one special child who might need to be reminded that his or her family is very, very special. Highly recommended.