

EASTERN COLLABORATIVE CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL NETWORK BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE



Welcome to the ECCRN's book recommendations for children in care. *We know children's books can do more than entertain; they can offer comfort, representation, and empathy. For some readers, they are mirrors, reflecting familiar experiences and helping them feel seen and understood. For others, they are windows, offering a compassionate view into lives that may be very different from their own.

Through the power of story, we can build understanding, connection, and belonging – one page at a time.

*Text & suggestions from [40 Kids Books Featuring Children In Care | LoveReading4Kids](#)



For 9+ / 11+ readers we highly recommend The Star Outside My Window by Onjali Q. Raúf. Aniyah and Noah are in foster care with the remarkable Mrs Iwuchukwu, alongside Travis and Ben who become steadfast friends by her side for the madcap adventure to come. The reader gets gradual hints from flashbacks of what happened in their past as realisation dawns on Aniya and the reader becomes all too aware of the emotional cost of living in a home soured by domestic violence. But this happens within a safe context as Aniya and Noah have found a haven and a future.



Little Bits of Sky by S.E.

Durrant is a beautifully characterised and engaging story about children going through the care system during the Thatcher years, and how friendship and sibling relationships sustained them through growing up and finding a home.



For 13+ readers Know My Place by Eve Ainsworth is a touching tale of a girl in foster care. Particularly suitable for struggling or dyslexic teen readers this is a must-read.



E L Norry's latest novel Runaways is the story of two unrelated children, July and Jamie, who meet by chance in Waterloo Station. It is told with great warmth and empathy, but with genuine authenticity too and tackles some difficult themes like drug use and homelessness. July has recently returned from foster care to live with her young mum, a recovering addict who struggles to hold down a job and make positive choices. Together, July and Jamie learn some hard truths about life, love, the fallibility of parents and the strength of support from those they can really trust.



For 11+ / 13+ readers Needle by Patrice Lawrence (she has written lots about children in care). 15 year-old Charlene is struggling to stay in control of her life. She's been in care since her mother died two years ago and desperately misses her little sister, who is living with her own father. Written to be accessible to all readers, *Needle* lets us see through someone else's eyes, highlighting the restrictive effects of society's expectations of individuals. Vivid, powerful and unforgettable.



And final mention must go to the now multi award-winning debut Glasgow Boys by Margaret McDonald. Finlay and Banjo have both grown up in care, once as close as brothers, now they don't speak at all. As both boys struggle with impending adulthood and uncertain futures, will the hope of new friends, the pain of past trauma and the possibility of future love, help them find each other again?

Looking for more reads? Visit [here](#).

Do you have any recommendations? We would love to hear. Or perhaps you have written something about your experiences you would like to share?

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HAPPY READING!

