

# Choosing Children



**GROUNDSPARK**  
IGNITING CHANGE THROUGH FILM

## Choosing Children Press Kit

An emotionally powerful documentary that challenges society's definitions of family by exploring the ways lesbians are becoming parents and how they are raising their children.



### Table of Contents

**Film Synopsis.....2**

**Who Should See this Film.....2**

**Awards.....3**

**Production Credits.....3**

**Additional Resources.....4**

## Synopsis

Hailed as a pioneering achievement upon its release in 1984, **Choosing Children** takes an intimate look at the joys and challenges experienced by six different families as they make decisions about how to become pregnant, navigate the process of adoption, contemplate whether to involve men in parenting, and take in reactions from relatives, doctors and schoolmates.

### **Recommended for use by:**

- University courses in women's studies, gay and lesbian studies, family life and sexuality, civil rights, and social movements
- Family-law organizations
- Gay-rights organizations
- Adoption agencies
- Organizations providing support to new parents

**Running Time:** 46 minutes

**Format:** VHS

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## Who Should See this Film

**Choosing Children** is a film about families. It speaks to the gay community about ways to bring children into our families, and speaks to the straight community about the obstacles and joys faced by lesbian parents. It is invaluable to social workers, healthcare workers, judges and others who work with lesbian or gay-headed families.

**Choosing Children** has been a useful resource for university courses in women's studies, gay and lesbian studies, family life and sexuality, civil rights, and social movements.

Family-law and gay-rights organizations, adoption agencies and organizations providing support to new parents have found the stories in **Choosing Children** to be inspiring models of the myriad of options available to all families.

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## Awards

- Red Ribbon, American Film Festival
- Best Documentary, New England Film Festival
- Best Short Documentary, New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
- First Prize, National Educational Film Festival
- Second Place, National Council on Family Relations

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## Production Credits

**Directed, Produced, and Edited by**  
Debra Chasnoff and Kim Klausner

**Executive Producer**  
Margaret Lazarus

**Cinematographer**  
Karla Clement

**Sound Recordist**  
Susan L. Welsh

**Original Song Written and Performed by**  
Holly Near

**Music Arranged and Scored by**  
Noel Williams

**Additional Editing**  
Ann Carol Grossman

**Additional Sound**  
Lucy Ostrander

**Assistant Camera**  
Kate Purdie, Fawn Yacker

**Additional Camera**  
Anita Leek

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## Additional Resources

**Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)** supports young people with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents.

**Family Equality Council** is dedicated to affirming and protecting the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents.

**The National Center for Lesbian Rights** is a legal resource center committed to advancing the rights and safety of lesbians and their families through litigation, public policy advocacy, public education, and free legal advice and counseling.

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