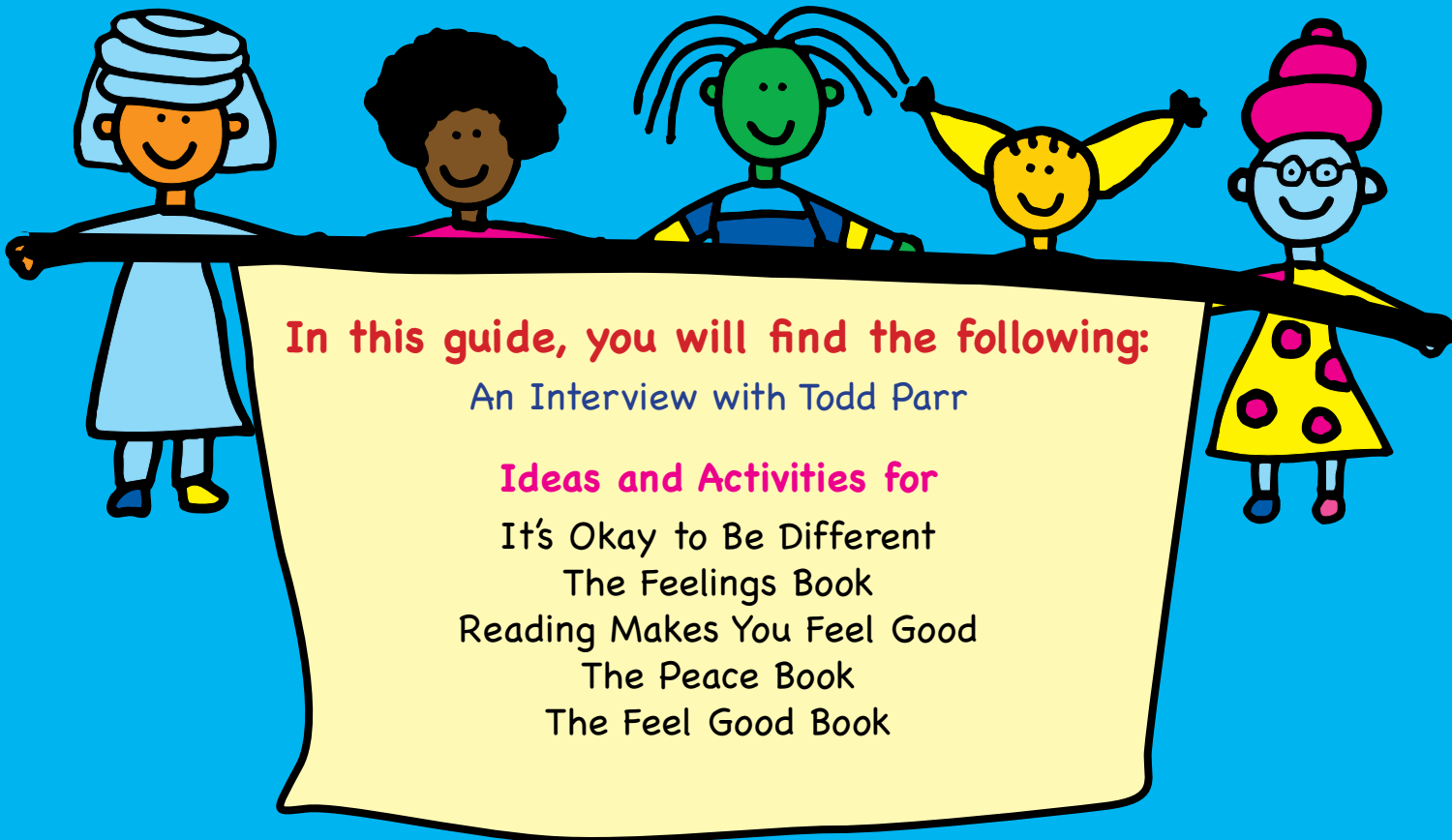


Todd Parr

Makes you Feel Good!

Welcome to the world of Todd Parr
where it's okay to be different!

Now, Todd's collection of books about feelings are available in paperback, making them ideal for use in the classroom. Each book has an unfailingly positive message and Todd's simple style and bold palette invites kids to create their own books and develop their own versions. The affirmations of each book open the door to character education that is never stuffy and always accessible.



An Interview with Todd Parr

LB: How did you develop your distinctive style?

Todd: It was my style through school. It is simplistic and it's one of the reasons I failed at art because I never progressed. I didn't have the confidence to believe I was an artist so I never pursued it. In later years, I decided this is something I really want to do. I developed the confidence to say "I don't care what anyone else thinks." It has taken many years to earn the place on the shelf. In the beginning, people didn't get my art. "Where are the pastels? What are these funky lines?" People were taken aback by this including several booksellers. Having this message and concept—this positive thing—it seemed so natural for me to kids. People were skeptical in the beginning. It was good that I was so naïve. It's taken a number of years to get to the point where people get what I do.

LB: How do you empower kids to feel good about themselves?

Todd: I remind them to be kind. I start with It's Okay to Be Different because it best describes what I do which is empowering you to feel good about yourself while reminding you of differences and reminding you to be kind and have good manners.

LB: How can kids be agents of peace?

Todd: What does peace mean to you?—create your own peace book. The Peace Project came about through passionate teachers and a principal, having kids take pictures according to a theme and their version of how they see peace. This year, The Peace Book is their theme. It has morphed beyond what they originally envisioned. They brought me in to do my thing and I found myself in front of 300 eighth graders who were wondering why they were there. But the turnaround was amazing—they began to talk about being inspired. And now they are coming to New York to share The Peace Book and peace bags on the street. I was challenged about how to reach them since my usual age group is 4–8. The eighth graders originally seemed to think "Like couldn't we get Yoko Ono?" The Peace Project morphed into all these organizations donating things for the peace bags. Now, even Yoko Ono is going to participate. It's amazing. I flew into this town in Plymouth, Michigan thinking I'm doing my normal thing and next thing the entire town is excited about going to New York.

LB: What are some ways you would suggest teachers and librarians use your books?

Todd: My books just call out for people to create their own version. You can adapt the books into "Dos and Don'ts" for the start of the school year. And story time is not quiet time for me—I engage the kids, I draw them in to what I'm doing by asking questions. I like to keep them stimulated—I even let them help me choose the next book!

LB: You frequently talk about your grandmother reading to you at night. What books do you recall?

Todd: Go, Dog!, Go, Are You my Mother?, Green Eggs and Ham. Over and over and over. And there were two other books I was fascinated with but not because of the book but the fact of a troll that lived under the bridge. I was fascinated with what under the bridge looked like—that this whole world existed under the bridge.

LB: What is the most memorable question you've ever been asked and how did you respond?

Todd: I try starting out with what things you might want to know like where I get my ideas and then I say my favorite food and favorite color. Kids chime in with everything.

LB: How do your books help build a sense of empathy?

Todd: They help kids recognize the differences in everyone on the level of the age group. I simplify those things that make everyone unique and different. It's okay to have wheels or glasses or to be challenged in any way.

LB: What do you want kids to take away from your books?

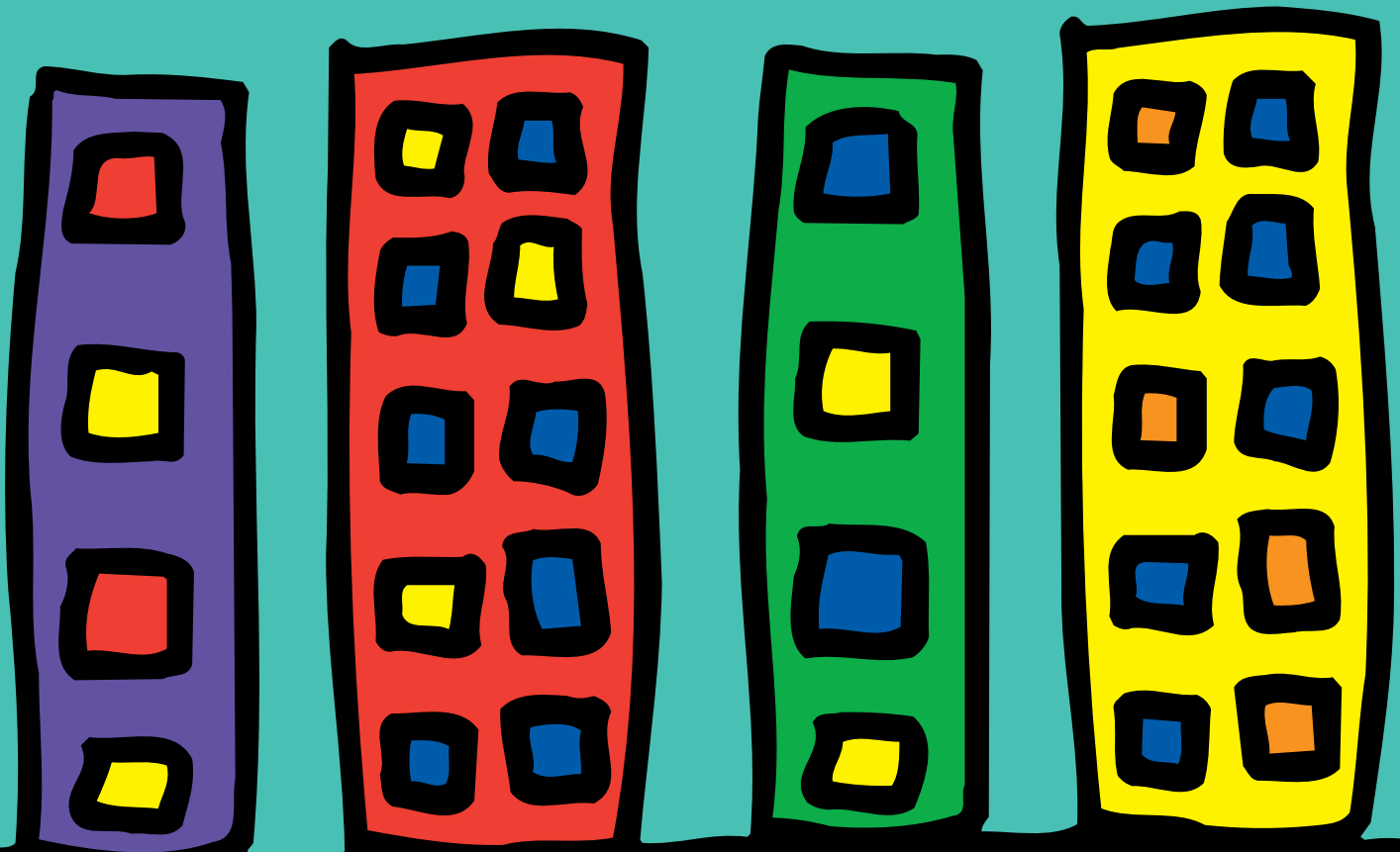
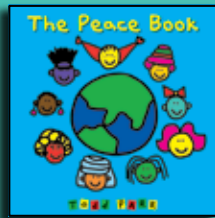
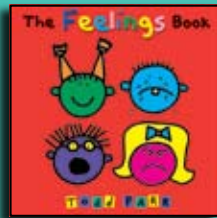
Todd: Be imaginative! Be kind! Feel good about yourself!



As children encounter a Todd Parr book, they learn how to articulate not only their own feelings more clearly but also how to better understand the feelings of others.

The empathy at the core of each book helps build the foundation for each child not only to learn how to bloom where they are planted but how to share light and space with those around them.

For more information about Todd Parr and his books, visit Little, Brown Books for Young Readers at lb-kids.com and toddparr.com



Activities after READING...

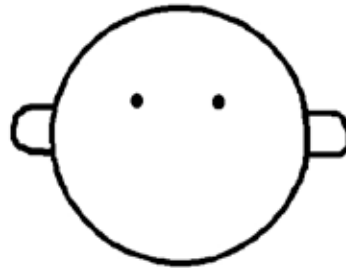


It's Okay to Be Different

"It's Okay to be ME!" Self Portrait

Encourage students to identify his or her own physical characteristics that make him or her unique or different. Using the template below, students can add color to the face, a nose, mouth, accessories, and hair to create a "self- portrait." Display and discuss similarities and differences.

It's Okay to Be ME!



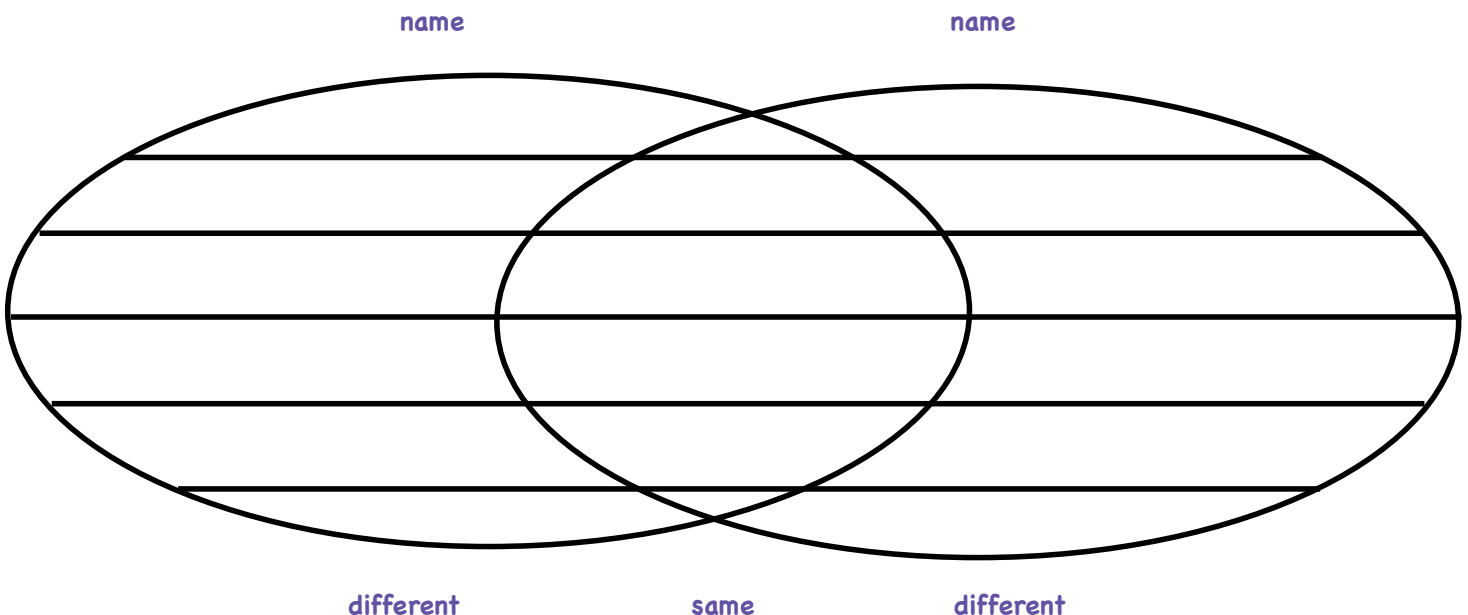
It's Okay to... Add a page!

As a group, make a list of suggestions of things it is "okay" to do or be. Students can think about their own experiences, likes, dislikes, and family. On a blank piece of paper, have the students complete the sentence. "It's okay to..." and illustrate their idea. Attach or collect in a folder to accompany the book.

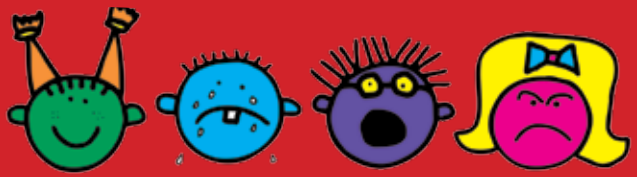
One step further: Create a book with the illustrations and display it in your school library.

It's Okay to compare and contrast.

Divide students in pairs and give each pair a blank Venn Diagram like the one below. Have pairs discuss ways that they are different from their partner and write sentences or phrases on the Venn Diagram. Display and discuss the importance of appreciating and celebrating each other's differences.



The Feelings Book



The Feeling Show

Help kids show their feelings with a performance based on The Feelings Book. Make sure you have a large space and ask the kids to express each emotion as you read the book aloud. Take your time—some students will need a little extra thinking time to figure out how silly or scared looks to them. After a couple of times through, consider using your Feelings Show at the next PTO meeting or for a school assembly, giving your younger students a chance to shine. Go one step further: Invite a good reader to read the book (and count to ten or twenty between pages!).

Feeling Empathy

Learning that each person has feelings is one of life's biggest lessons. After sharing the book with the class, read it again, covering the "feeling" word with your hand or a strip of paper. Ask the students to identify the

"feeling" in the picture. If you want to help them out, put the different feelings on the board in a different order so they can have multiple choices. After the exercise, then ask the children to draw a picture of an emotion that is not included in the book and write the feeling on the back. Gather up the papers and ask the students to identify the feelings in the pictures drawn by their classmates.

Birthday Party!

"Sometimes I feel like celebrating my birthday, even though it's not today," writes Todd Parr. Ask students to bring in the ingredients for a birthday and celebrate an unbirthday party. After, talk with them about what they liked and didn't like when it's everyone's party. Each person likes to be special but not every person can be special at the same time. Birthdays provide a way to make sure that each person has a special day.

READING Makes You Feel Good

Reading Campaign

Make persuasive posters to encourage friends and others to read. Discuss places and situations where reading might be especially useful. For example, reading is very important for knowing which restroom to go into, which animal you are watching at the zoo, or which way to go to the park. Children can choose a reason from the book, or come up with their own reason that reading is important and fun. Write the chosen phrase prominently on the poster, and illustrate in ways that will make the people who see it want to stop and look. Post around your room, school, or library. One step further: Invite community partners to display the poster beyond the school such as the public library, the town hall, even sporting venues!

Reading Walk

Words are everywhere! A reading walk can be as simple or as involved as you choose. In a reading walk around the room, children can partner up, point out, and read words to each other, or an individual can read and write down the words that they see on a clipboard. In an ABC reading walk around the neighborhood or school, children can try to find a word that begins with each letter of the alphabet. Children can also "race" to find the most words that begin with a particular letter in a set amount of time.

Turn off the electronics!

Challenge the students to go one week without watching television. Create a pledge that they can sign and take home to their families. Be sure a place for the parents to indicate their commitment as well! Include a list of activities that families can do instead of watching television, playing with their DS, listening to their ipod or wearing out their thumbs with their game system. Suggestions could include visiting a zoo or museum, playing board games, going to the park, riding bikes, playing sports—ask the kids for suggestions! For additional research and ideas, visit tvturnoff.org. As one second grader commented, "I really didn't like TV—Turnoff Week except that I did notice that my grades went up and I was in a mood all week."



The Peace Book

Peace Mural

Discuss the idea of a peaceful world.
What would the people be doing?
What would the animals be doing?
What would we say? What would
we look like? Where would we go?

On a large sheet of paper, work
together to draw scenes of what
a peaceful world would look like.



Include people, places, plants,
animals, and anything else in
the child's everyday world.

One step further:

Consider painting your mural
on a wall at your school or
paint it on a strong canvas so
that it can be used off-site to
promote your school.

Peace looks like _____

Peace sounds like _____

Peace tastes like _____

Peace smells like _____

Peace feels like _____

Peace Poem

Using the senses, children can create a more concrete
picture of what "peace" is. Have each child fill out the
template below with several options for each.

After choosing a favorite word or phrase for each,
rewrite and illustrate on a clean sheet of paper with
the title "Peace Poem." Mount and display, or compile
into your own Peace Poetry Collection.

Start Your Own Peace Project

Invite middle schoolers to read The Peace Book to first
and second graders in your school. Students will then
be empowered to use their imaginations to define the
concept of peace. Invite the students to focus elements
of community, exploring what peace means to them
and their families as they strengthen their writing and
drawing skills. The goal is to grow their understanding of
community and their impact on the world around them.
As a closing project, each classroom can publish their
own "peace" book. Be sure to display your books at a
local community center. For more information about The
Peace Project, visit toddparr.com.

The FEEL GOOD Book

"Feel Good" Collage

What types of things make you feel good? Things we do, see, touch, hear, feel, and taste can make us feel good inside. Have children cut words and pictures from magazines and newspapers that represent things that make them feel good. Paste the words and pictures on to a large piece of paper or poster board titled "The FEEL GOOD Collage." The collage can be for a group or for an individual. Display and discuss what each word or picture represents.

Feel Good" Interview

What makes the people around you feel good? Make a list of people that the children can interview, such as friends, teachers, or family members. Have each child choose someone to interview. Some suggestions of questions to ask are...

What type of music makes you feel good?

What do you do that makes you feel good?

Who makes you feel good?

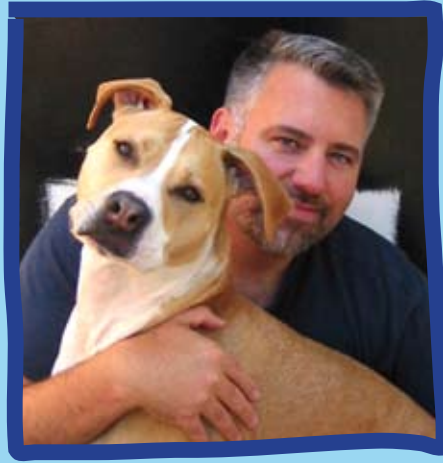
What do you do to make other people feel good?

After asking the questions, children can draw a picture of that person doing something they described. They can also write a sentence or paragraph about the person that they interviewed.

Celebrate Feeling Good

Has someone made you feel good? This is a question to ask your students. Write their responses on the board and use this as a way to teach how to write "thank you" notes. Hand out construction paper and instruct the students to fold the paper in half. Have them write "You made me feel good!" with a Todd-Parr like illustration on the front. Inside, they should write why it made them feel good on one side and a big "Thank You!" on the other side. After they sign their names, they should then give it to the person who made them feel good, making that person feel good in return!





About Todd Parr

I spent my childhood in a small town in Wyoming. It was a great place to grow up but I knew the world was out there waiting for me. In high school, art was a passion of mine, but I failed art class. Because of that failure, I lacked the self-confidence to pursue it further. But it wasn't all my teacher's fault.

I worked at many things before finally coming back to my original dream of painting, but again I faced rejection. Despite the rejection, I continued on with my work because I knew being an artist was what I wanted to do with my life.

After not having success with galleries, I was able to show my work at one of Wolfgang Puck's restaurants, Postrio, in San Francisco, where I have lived for the past 13 years. With a little luck and persistence, this exhibit led to many other things, like creating merchandise for Macy's, and then on to my own line of clothing for kids.

I first got into children's publishing in 1998. I was able to take the messages that are part of my art and put them in a simple reading about acceptance, differences and empowerment for kids to feel better about themselves in a simple, fun way. I have a lot of fun creating my books and I'm proud to know they are helping someone feel better about themselves in a silly, fun way.

Here are some of the fun, cool things that have happened to me and my books: My work was displayed in the windows of FAO Schwarz in New York City and San Francisco, with interior

displays of some of my product, including my first four books.

"Todd Parr Shops" within Toys "R" Us Japan were launched at all 101 stores with products exclusively available in Japan.

My books have won several awards and have been featured on The Rosie O'Donnell Show. I have partnered with Target, Reach Out and Read, People Magazine, and several other organizations to promote reading.

In November 2005, my children's preschool show, ToddWorld, premiered on TLC and Discovery Kids. The show has since been nominated for an Emmy Award and has won several other awards including the iParenting Media Award and the 2005 Humanitas Award for the episode entitled "Who's Your Best Friend?" ToddWorld is now airing in almost every country around the world with a second season is in the works.

With the support of my family, especially my Dad and Grandma, I have been very successful but I do have another passion. I'd like to own my own restaurant!

As my Grandma used to say: "You're a little lost now but I know you'll find your way .

I like the fog.

I like sea lions.

I like to paint.

My favorite color is blue.

My favorite food is macaroni and cheese.



Also by Todd Parr

The Best Friends Book,
9780316012430, 6.99

The Daddy Book,
9780316607995, 15.99

Do's and Don'ts (Board Book),
9780316908085, 6.99

The Family Book,
9780316738965, 15.99

The Grandma Book,
9780316058025, 9.99

The Grandpa Book,
9780316058018, 9.99

The I Love You Book,
9780316019859, 9.99

The Mommy Book,
9780316608275, 15.99

The Okay Book,
9780316908092, 6.99

Otto Goes to Bed,
9780316738736, 9.95

Otto Goes to School,
9780316835336, 9.99

Otto Has a Birthday Party,
9780316739078, 9.95

This Is My Hair (Board Book),
9780316908115, 6.99

Underwear Do's and Don'ts
(Board Book),
9780316908061, 6.99

We Belong Together: A Book
about Adoption and Families,
9780316016681, 15.99