

Words That *Hurt*, Words That *Heal*

In Mom's House, Dad's House Isolina Ricci provides alternative language to the generally pejorative terms society has assigned to divorce and divorced or separated families. Here are some of her suggestions:

(-) Negative Language

Visiting
Visitation
I have children, but they live with
 my spouse
The children's parent left us
The children are visiting their other
 parent
Broken home
Failed marriage
Ex-wife, Ex-husband
Custody, visitation
Child support
Sole Custody
Custody
Physical Custody
Legal Custody
Primary parent
Custodial parent
Joint legal custody
Sole legal custody
Joint physical custody
Sole physical custody
Order or award of -
(custody, visitation or
child support)
My rights

(+) Positive Language

Living with
Time sharing
I have a family

I have a family
The children are at other home

2 houses, 1 family
The marriage ended
My children's parent (mom/dad)
Parenting agreement
Contribution
Shared responsibility
Division of responsibilities
Residential plan
Decision-making plan
Residential parent
Residential parent
Shared decision-making
Major decision-making responsibility
Shared home time
Major responsibility for home time
Parenting plan, agreement

Our responsibilities