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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Today my mom told me we
have to move again...*



Home Is Wherever I Go: A Note from the Author

Children experiencing housing insecurity can feel many emotions including stress, anxiety and sadness. Without support, these emotions can adversely impact children's engagement in school and other learning environments conducive to healthy social-emotional development. By offering Trauma-Informed-Care, we provide children a chance to persevere through these difficulties.

"As the pandemic enters its second year, millions of renters are struggling with loss of income and the insecurity of not knowing how long they will have a home. Savings depleted and running up debt, families are moving now more than ever." New York Times, 2/6/2021

Home Is Wherever I Go allows children to see their own mobility through the eyes of a young girl full of hope, imagination, and playfulness. Along with the list of helpful resource questions guide, this book can aid teachers, social workers, parents, and other key adults in children's lives to instill compassion for vulnerability, provide trauma informed care, bolster children's natural resilience, and build social-emotional strength – with the joy and playfulness of a beautifully illustrated and vibrantly lyrical children's book. During these difficult times, many families are in transition and need support.

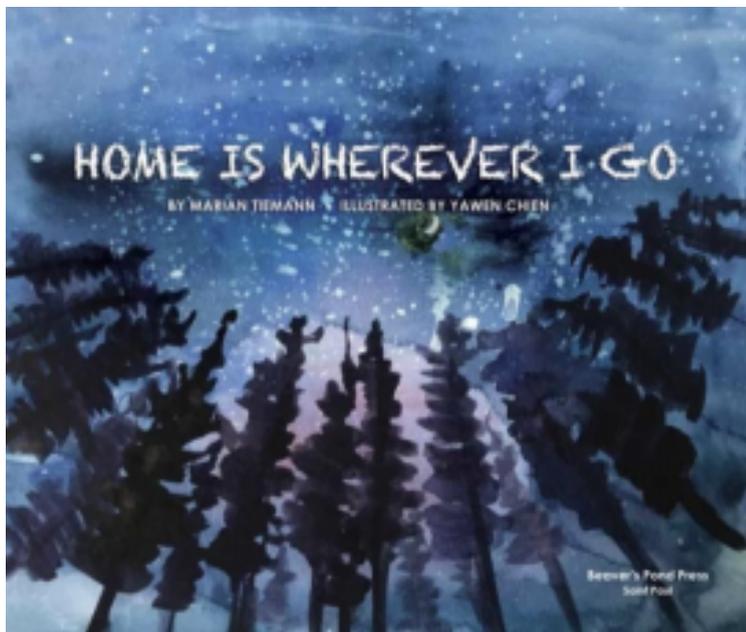
I wrote this book to honor the children who are facing the uncertainty of life's challenges, with the hope that it will instill confidence and help foster a sense of optimism and well-being in their lives. Please consider purchasing a copy and or help by donating a book to Children's Book Project ([Children's Book Project.org](http://Children'sBookProject.org)). Or request a copy at your local library or bookstore. Feel free to contact me and the illustrator for presentations and discussions.

Thank you,

Marian Tiemann, MS Early Intervention Childhood Specialist

For more information or to pre-order a copy, visit <http://www.whereverbook.com>.

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Home Is Wherever I Go

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Author: Marian Tiemann

Illustrator: Yawen Chien

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ORDERING INFORMATION:

To order, visit [Itasca Books Amazon](#) or call (800) 901-3480. Reseller discounts available.

Home Is Wherever I Go is told through the eyes of a child who is struggling to understand the feelings of loss, fear, and isolation that come with housing insecurity. The vibrant, colorful, and playful illustrations by Yawen Chien illuminate the importance of love, social-emotional wellness, and support during any change in a child's life. Written with insight and empathy, *Home Is Wherever I Go* transports us into the magical world of a child's imagination and demonstrates the power of a child's resilience, creativity, and adaptability as tools for survival in a world where things can change unexpectedly. This moving and inspiring story can help children of all ages develop resilience, empathy, and compassion for peers who are coping with economic insecurity or any other challenge that impacts their feelings of security and well-being. Both teachers and parents can use the suggested questions for discussions that encourage the development of empathy for others." - Emily Sanders, teacher

Author

Marian Tiemann is an author, artist, and early intervention teacher living in Northern California. Through her own experiences and her intimate work with diverse families, she has been inspired by stories of housing insecurity, transience, and resilience. In recognition of the power of imagination to create a sense of stability and security amid change, and to give voice to children who face these challenges, *Home Is Wherever I Go* was born.

Illustrator

Yawen Chien was born in Taiwan and has lived and worked as an artist, illustrator, and theater performer in the San Francisco Bay Area for many years. She expresses sensitivity and spontaneity through water mediums and is inspired by collaborations with other artists and immersions in different art forms. You may find more of her work at www.artswen.com.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

What challenges did you face personally?

As a young mother, I had to move many times for various reasons. It wasn't easy but I was determined to do the best I could, given some difficult circumstances. With children in tow, I moved from the East coast to the West coast, we lived in cities, towns, and in the country. We even lived in a school bus on the road. Looking back, although our housing was unstable at times, I wanted to make sure my children kept a sense of security.

For many years, I wanted to write a children's book on this topic. I didn't see any books out there that really expressed the sentiment I wanted to create. Many families with children are in transition and between homes or have to move often. I wrote this story with the idea that it could nurture in children a certain feeling of hope and excitement when facing challenges in uncertain times, especially when moving. Yawen's illustrations brought the story to life.

What inspired you to write this book?

A woman I met while working in a homeless shelter once shared with me that as a child her mother would always tell her that they were going camping whenever they had to move. She said she knew, even when she was very young, what this meant. She understood that they would have to pack everything into the car, uproot their lives, and lose everything she had come to know as "home." But she also said that her mother would make it fun--as if it were an adventure. She said she had the feeling that something exciting was about to happen.

I could relate to her story and thought how over the years, I had tried to do the same thing. I wrote this book because I wanted to share this sense of optimism and adventure with families.

In my own experience of moving and working with many diverse families across the world as a social worker and early intervention teacher, I came to understand that a certain kind of resiliency is needed to be able to cope with the challenges of moving frequently. Whether a family is homeless or just relocating for a job, the theme of this book is central to supporting the family and children's emotional health.

Why do you think this book speaks to the times?

With high unemployment, and migration due to climate and poverty, and now a viral pandemic, many families with young children face the challenge of moving. This can be very stressful and brings up a sense of instability, anxiety and insecurity. I think it is critical to address fears that may come up for children and help to normalize those feelings. The role of parents and teachers' in helping children navigate these emotions is essential to every children's well-being. In this story, through simple prose, and beautiful illustrations, children are encouraged to explore the feelings that the narrator is facing with optimism and are guided to contemplate moving with a positive outlook.

I feel this book speaks to the real definition of what gives a place the feeling of home. What we bring to any place, as well as the connections we have with family and nature, is, to me, the essence of what we call "home"-- a theme that transcends generations.

Where can people purchase Home is wherever I Go Book?

You can order a copy from Itasca books, www.whereverbook.com Amazon, Barnes & Noble . . . or best yet, you can request a copy from your favorite independent bookstore!

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[What Can I Do Today to Help a Homeless Child?](#)

[Center for the vulnerable child](#)

[Family support and well-being](#)