August 8, 2018

Dear Teacher,

If you are receiving this letter, it means you have a very special person in your class. You were given this letter by foster parents who are advocating for the child placed in their home and assigned to your classroom. The foster parents want to open the lines of communication with you, so you can partner together to help make their foster child’s school year a success.

To begin, the foster parents want you to be aware that the child they are caring for has most likely experienced more trauma in their short life than anyone should endure in a lifetime. They carry that trauma with them every day, everywhere they go.

There will probably be days where this child pushes the limits and challenges your every bit of patience. There will be likely be days of school missed for appointments, therapy, court, and visits with their birth family. Please maintain communication with the foster parents and work with them to help this child navigate these difficult times. Know that the visits and appointments are often beyond the foster parent’s control. Understand that the foster parents are doing the best they can, and they value you as their foster child’s teacher. Your input and observations are important. You will be spending more hours per day with this child than the foster parents will. Please encourage this child, be understanding of the situation, and celebrate the small milestones. You may very well be one of the first people to ever praise or congratulate this child on a job well done.

Please remember that the emotions this child is dealing with and the circumstances they are living take a lot of energy to process. Sometimes school and homework are going to end up at the bottom of the child’s and the foster parent’s priority list. Please be patient with them. This child has possibly never had the opportunity to learn because they might have been too busy caring for younger siblings or just trying to survive. Please don’t give up.

Included with this letter is a packet of information you may find helpful in understanding this child and the struggles they have and continue to face.

Remember, you were given this letter because you are now a valued member of this child’s case team. Your role as their teacher gives you a unique opportunity to see this child change, grow and to make a difference in a life.

Thank you for the work you do and the support you provide.