

*Collaborating to Enhance the Educational
Success of Students in Foster Care in the
Classroom*

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"Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be." -

Rita F. Pierson

Personal Experience

- Two adoptive brothers*
- Ten foster children*
- Special Education Teacher for four years*



Building a Bridge

- Establish a connection with the student*
- Forge a bond with foster parents*
- Communicate with case workers and educational specialists*
- Consider writing specific information in a calendar or journal to track crucial moments in behavior or emotional wellbeing*

Advocacy

- *Become familiar with local service providers*
- *Positive relationship with case worker/foster family is crucial*
- *Document specific behaviors and needs*
- *Create a classroom culture of openness and acceptance*

Sharing Information

- Confidentiality*
- Learn about triggers and traumas*
- Respect and understand the differences*

Challenges to Collaboration

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Solutions</i>
<i>Child's reluctance to establish new relationships</i>	<i>Find a connection and establish a sense of family</i>
<i>Difficult schedule/availability of case worker</i>	<i>Communicate desire to guarantee success with child-ask caseworker about preferred method of communication</i>
<i>Lack of stability in placement</i>	<i>Identify constants in the life of the child and invest in them</i>