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The Journey of Life Before, During and After Foster Care and the Path to Resilience

Sara B. Wood

Bibb County School System, Sara.Wood@bcsdk12.net

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More than a Trash Bag

The Journey of Life Before, During and After
Foster Care and the Path to Resilience



NO CHILD
DESERVES A
TRASH BAG

The Person Sitting Next to You

Meet Your Sibling

Place All of Your
Belongings in the
Trash Bag

It's moving day!

WASTE

CLEAN



trash bag

noun [C] US

UK /'træʃ ,bæg/ US /'træʃ ,bæg/

(also **garbage bag**); (UK **bin bag**)



a plastic bag put inside a bin to hold the waste and keep the container clean



JoAnne

Thrower



Life on

The Street



WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?



Department of Children & Family Services



U.S. Department of Education Statistics

- In the U.S. today, approximately 400,000 children and youth are in foster care at any given time.
- Each year about 20,000 of these students emancipate (i.e., age out) of foster care.

Everybody's a Teacher

- Children learn from us: parents, teachers, social service workers, caregivers, etc..
- They learn from our actions as well as our words.
- When we take the time to explain, the child begins to understand. When
- When we believe in the child, the child begins to believe in him or herself.
- When we place a priority on education, guess what?
- The children will also place a priority on education.
- In this way, we are all teachers. We are teaching the children around us, by our own actions and words.

Ten Percent

Graduate from
High School

Three Percent

Graduate from
College

< One Percent

Obtain a
Graduate Degree

Attachment?



80%
Experience
Homelessness



60%
Experience
Incarceration

WHY?

What are the factors that lead to homelessness and incarceration?

Are you the Bacon or the Egg

If you are not a part of the solution, you
are a part of the

What Can I do to be a Part of the Solution

- Become Culturally Competent with foster youth culture
- Volunteer through civic organization or church
- Become a foster parent
- Adopt
- Become a CASA or Guardian ad Litem



WHAT NOT TO DO

Have Low Standards or Expectations.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Share a child in foster care's "Secret".

Pound Pup Legacy



Children ARE NOT Animals or Slaves for Sale



Attending a Foster Care Matching Event



Education Barriers and Supports

- National research shows that children in foster care are at high-risk of dropping out of school and are unlikely to attend or graduate from college.
- A coordinated effort by education agencies and child welfare agencies is necessary to improve the educational outcomes for students in foster care.

Education Barriers and Supports

- A positive PK-12 education experience has the potential to be a powerful counterweight to the abuse, neglect, separation, impermanence and other barriers these vulnerable students experience.
- Additionally, participation in and persistence to a postsecondary credential can enhance their well-being, help them make more successful transitions to adulthood, and increase their chances for personal fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency.

BETTER THE HERO!



FUTURE























Sara Bennett Wood

Sara.Wood@bcsdk12.net

SaraBennettWood@gmail.com

(229)886-9989

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