

Trauma Informed Practice Strategies (T.I.P.S.) for Educators

1. Collaborate, develop rapport with the local child welfare agency. Ask to be notified as soon as possible if a child from your school is placed into foster care, whether they remain in the school or go to a different school.

2. If a new child enrolls in your school and has just been placed into foster care, or a child already in your school is placed into foster care:
 - Whoever at the school is aware of the situation, be sure the child's teacher and the school counselor know about the child's experience.
 - Stay in touch with the child's foster parents and caseworker.
 - Teachers:
 - Be patient and understanding.
 - The child may have missed, or will miss school for a period of time. Assure them you will help them to catch up.
 - Allow extra time for work to be completed.
 - Be aware of how the other students are treating the child.
 - School counselors:
 - Let the child know you are available to talk if they would like.
 - Ask the child if they had any special friends from their previous school with whom they would like to stay in touch.
 - If the child is attending a new school, support a process for closure with teachers and students from the previous school (e.g. invite teachers and students from the child's class in the previous school to send notes or cards to say good-bye, wish them well, etc.)