

We Pray for Children

We pray for children who put chocolate fingers everywhere, who like to be tickled, who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants, who sneak sweets before supper, who erase holes in their maths books, who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire, who can't bound down the street in new trainers, who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions, who sleep with the cat and bury goldfish, who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money, who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink, Who slurp their soup.

And we pray for those who never get dessert, who have no safe blanket to drag behind them, who don't have any rooms to clean up, whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser, whose monsters are real.

We pray for children who spend all their pocket money before Tuesday, who throw tantrums in the supermarket and pick at their food, who like ghost stories, who shove dirty clothes under the bed, who get visits from the tooth fairy, whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those whose nightmares come in the daytime, who will eat anything, who have never seen a dentist, who are never spoiled by anyone, who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep, who live and move, but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried and for those who must, for those we never give up on and for those who never get a second chance, for those we smother. And for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it.

We pray for children.

Amen.

Dear Lord,

Bless our children,

Protect them and give them strength

to overcome their fears and worries.

We pray for all the children in our care,

Help us as teachers to show our children,

Your goodness and grace.

We ask this prayer through your son Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen

10 ways to treat children better

- 1 Tell them every day you LOVE them
- 2 LISTEN to them
- 3 ACCEPT them as they are
- 4 Recognise their QUALITIES
- 5 Dedicate TIME to them
- 6 Stimulate their LEARNING
- 7 RESPECT their rights
- 8 TEACH them responsibility
- 9 Help them to resolve CONFLICTS
- 10 Strengthen GOODVALUES in them

adapted from the Good Treatment campaign

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5 Dedicate TIME to them

10 Strengthen GOODVALUES in them