



PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

by
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We accept responsibility for children who put chocolate fingers everywhere
Who stomp in puddles and ruin their new shoes
Who sneak popsicles before supper
Who erase holes in math workbooks
Who can never find their homework.

We accept responsibility for those who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire
Who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead
Who never go to the circus
Who live in an X-rated world.

We accept responsibility for children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions
Who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch
Who cover themselves with Band Aids and sing off key
Who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink.

And we accept responsibility 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 an anybody's dresser
Whose monsters are real.

We accept responsibility for children who spend all their allowance before Tuesday
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store
Who shove dirty clothes under the bed and never rinse out the tub
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can makes us cry.

And we accept responsibility for those whose nightmares come in the daytime
Who will eat anything
Who aren't spoiled by anybody, who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep.

We accept responsibility for children who want to be carried and for those who must
For those we never give up on and for those who don't get a second chance
For those we smother and for those who will grasp the hand of anyone who offers it.
We accept responsibility -- we accept responsibility.