

# For Teachers



## EDUCATING HOMELESS CHILDREN

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### INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

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#### ***Signs that may indicate that a child is homeless:***

- Chronic hunger and tiredness
- Erratic attendance and tardiness
- Grooming and personal hygiene/clothing that draws attention
- Consistent lack of preparation for school—coming in without books, supplies, homework completed or papers signed
- Extremes in behavior—withdrawal, extreme shyness, nervousness, aggression, anger
- Resistant to parting with personal possessions ( e.g. putting coat in locker)

#### ***How you can help a homeless child in the classroom:***

- Maintain the child's privacy—discuss his homework situation away from other classmates; distribute school supplies in private
- Assign a “buddy” to help the homeless child acclimate
- Help the child participate in field trips, school activities and class projects through understanding of his/her living environment and accessing resources
- Try to give the child a special job within the classroom
- Look for special academic needs and arrange for tutoring
- Offer encouragement and understanding and recognize the child's talents and accomplishments

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#### **Opening Doors – Statewide Access to Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

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Adult Learning Resource Center, 2626 S. Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
ROE #26 – Hancock/McDonough, 130 S. Lafayette - Suite 200, Macomb, IL  
<http://homelessed.net>

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Opening Doors is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The goal of this initiative is to disseminate information to Illinois schools and shelters as to the educational rights and needs of homeless children and youth.