



Building Trust Together

I am grateful we are working together to reach *more than enough* for children and families before, during, and beyond foster care. Doing that effectively will require a great deal of trust between us. In order to grow a relationship built on trust, I'm making these commitments to you:

1. When I'm confused about something you've said or done, I'll choose to believe the best.

If I feel left out of the loop on a conversation, a decision is made that seems to disregard my thoughts, or I get an email that seems a bit cold, I'll believe the best. If I can't shake the feeling and think there's something more to it, I'll stick to my second commitment.

2. When hard things happen between us, I'll come directly to you. I will not go to others about my feelings or frustrations, knowing that talking to others undermines trust between us and with the others we collaborate with.

3. When you come directly to me, I will listen and take responsibility for mistakes I've made and commitments I have broken. I will seek to hear the truth in what you are sharing rather than jumping to deflect and defend myself.

4. When others speak negatively about you, I will share your strengths with them and encourage them to go directly to you. Even if someone is seeking advice or genuinely wrestling with what to do next, I will acknowledge their feelings while affirming you and quickly directing them to speak with you.

5. When I talk to others, I will be intentional about sharing credit for successes in the work we are doing together to reach *more than enough* in our community. I believe our collaboration will inspire others to do the same.

