

There was nothing I could do except hope that Bryan and his foster sister had a good summer and look forward to, hopefully, seeing them in the fall. We were delighted when they returned in August. Once again, Ms. Long did not attend any Meet the Teacher Nights or even come into the school building for several months. As I had arranged the previous school year with Ms. Stanton, the case manager from Bryans' foster care agency, I sent home a communication binder every day, in which we could exchange notes, questions, and concerns with Ms. Long. Strangely, after a few weeks, Ms. Long ripped the pages containing the notes out of the binder, and I had to write another note, explaining that this communication binder was meant to be a permanent record of our communication and that she should not destroy this documentation. She then stopped writing to me in the binder.

It took a few weeks into the new school year to get Bryan back on a toileting routine. He continued to wear ill-fitting clothes (even, frequently, girls' t-shirts and undershirts and socks with ruffles) and stained, ripped underwear, and we still had problems getting his backpack checked for dirty clothes and important notes and information. On several occasions, he wore pants or shorts that fit so tightly that even the staff had trouble getting the buttons fastened and unfastened (imagine trying to be independent in the restroom when you can't get your own pants up and down). Bryan looked extremely uncomfortable as the pants dug into his waist and kept him from bending and stretching in PE. Only after a month of repeated notes home did Ms. Long start routinely sending Bryan in looser fitting clothes.