



## ***A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN***

**We pray for children  
who sneak popsicles before supper,  
who erase holes in math workbooks  
who can never find their shoes.**

**We pray for those  
who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,  
who can't bound down the street in a new pair of shoes,  
who never "counted potatoes",  
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 pray for children  
who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,  
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money.**

**And we pray for those  
who never get dessert,  
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,  
who watch their parents watch them die,  
who can't find any bread to steal,  
who don't have any rooms to clean up,  
whose monsters are real.**

**We pray for children  
who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,  
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,  
who like ghost stories,  
who shove dirty clothes under their bed and never rinse out the tub,  
who get visits from the tooth fairy,  
who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,**

**And we pray for those  
whose nightmares came in the daytime  
who will eat anything,  
who have never seen a dentist,  
who aren't spoiled by anybody,  
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 don't get a second chance.  
for those we smother with kisses...  
And for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it.**

**Please offer your hands to them so that no child is left behind because we did not act.**

**Marion Wright Edelman**