

## **An imperfect letter**

Dear every child,

What you see  
what you know and what you wonder  
what you notice and do and don't do  
what you say and what you don't say  
is so important

All that you have been treasuring  
Everything and everyone you have been caring for  
All that you try to protect and take care with  
What you hold on to is your gift to the world  
What you value is valuable  
What matters is you

The ways in which you are understood and  
misunderstood matter  
What others choose to notice or not see, to do and  
not do matters to you

What you experience that doesn't feel good, or is  
confusing  
Where you wish things were different  
Where you need and rely on caring choices from  
others  
What you do and don't do when hurt or hurting  
All matters

Where you find to go, what you do to find spaces  
to take care of what is yours  
to be as you are.

You matter

I may not know you. We may not meet. But this  
knowing we share.

*From us.*

## About the imperfect letter

This letter from us to every child is to take you seriously. Each as you are. Wherever you are. Whatever is going on.

We will never fully know or be able to describe in perfect words the creative and resourceful ways children live and be in response to opportunity and loss. In response to adversity, calm, chaos, connection, disconnection, kindness, violence, and more.

## About the authors

We are six adults living on unceded first nations lands in four countries. We have lived different childhoods, and we face different futures, yet we hold a shared value and wish for children. A wish that each child, in any place, of any age, ability, culture or situation, be valued by society, services and systems. Valued for who they are and for what is important to them.



Australia



Aotearoa  
New Zealand



Mexico



Canada

## Thanks

To the children (friends, siblings, cousins) around us in our own childhoods who were safe to talk to or be silent with - we thank you.

To the adults around us (early or late, formal or informal) who took us seriously – we thank you.

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## Sharing the imperfect letter

This letter has no limits to where it can travel and be seen. It can be shared in any format or style.

We invite you to creatively share it or respond to it. It must always be free (no cost/fee).

### If you are a child

If you are a child who has found this letter on your own, we hope it is useful to you in some way.

We hope you feel like you aren't alone. We hope that you see the spirit of all you have been treasuring, doing, and holding on to.

### If you are an adult

If you are an adult reading or sharing this letter

- We invite you to let the letter travel unchanged.
- We invite you to refrain from explaining it.
- We invite you to follow children's lead in what some or all of it may mean to them.

The imperfect letter may speak quietly to a child.

And the letter may create a way to talk together.