

PREFACE

The ideas for this short book arose from the confluence of four streams of my life experience: research I carried out, but which in the end I did not use, for a book recently co-authored with Andrew Fitz-Gibbon (*Welcoming Strangers: Nonviolent Re-parenting of Children in Foster Care*, New Brunswick: Transaction Publications, 2016); my work over the last thirty-four years as a foster carer and teacher of foster care; a reworking of research for my Ph.D.; and my work in a school for children with special needs with a carefully worked out policy for nonviolent interventions. I completed the research and writing of this book during a very busy life as the abbess of a faith community, working full time in special education, and as a foster carer, often with a house full of demanding children. In all of that I am grateful for so many who have helped shape the thinking that resulted in this short book.

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