

Keith's Adventure

As told by his Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Vanessa Fuller

Keith was a student in my first class as a rookie teacher. **He was such a sweet little student from the jump!** He was quiet at first but opened up after a couple of weeks. He loved math time and was interested in counting and comparing everything. He was also a huge fan of show and tell! I remember he brought me a toy flower for show and tell one day. I still have it!



Keith (front, third from left) and his Kindergarten classmates on a field trip

A few weeks into the school year, our lead teacher, Ms. Brannan, and I learned that Keith and his family would have to go back to Uganda for a few months to resolve some immigration paperwork issues.

We helped prepare Keith and the class by having him share about Uganda and framing it as a 'special vacation' with his family. His classmates were excited for him to go on what they thought was an adventure and this seemed to make him happy. We could tell he felt super supported. We packed up enough work for three months in all of the core subjects so that his parents could do it with him and he wouldn't fall too far behind.



Me helping students make cards

While Keith was in Uganda, his desk and all of his things stayed exactly as he left them. We made sure that everything we did, his name was included because he was still a part of our class. The kids often asked when he was coming back and we would say that "his adventure hasn't ended yet!"

The class was overjoyed when Keith returned to St. Therese! They wanted to share with him about everything they had done while he was gone, and they were so excited to hear about his trip. **Keith was a bit shy when he returned. But after only a few weeks, he was back to the enthusiastic learner** we had known from day one!



Keith, now in 2nd grade (left), with a classmate