



Sponsor Letter Writing Tips

- Your letter doesn't have to be long. Regardless of the length of your letter, simply hearing from you will mean a lot to your sponsor child.
- Talk about things your sponsor child is familiar with. Family is important to most of the children, so describe who is part of yours. Explain what you do during your days, tell a favorite story, or share your favorite Bible verse.
- Include photos whenever possible—your sponsor child will cherish them.
- Include some artwork. Often times your sponsor child will color a picture for you, and they love when you do the same.
- Ask your sponsor child questions. If you find it difficult to find things to say, they probably do too! Answering questions is a great way for them to improve their communication skills. Ask them what they are learning in school, who their friends are, what their favorite food is, if they have siblings, what they want to be when they grow up, etc.
- Encourage your sponsor child in their studies. Ask them how school is going. This will communicate to them the importance of working hard. Simply knowing someone cares about their education can serve as a great motivator.
- Understand that it takes children time to learn how to communicate well through letters. Give them time to develop this skill, and be patient if they say the same thing to you multiple times.
- You may send a small gift with your letter, but please make sure anything you send fits within a 9x12 envelope.
- If you sponsor a child as a group, it is best if one person writes to your sponsor child, to cut down on any potential confusion.

Avoid a few things:

- Talking about your sponsor child coming to America.
- Asking questions about your sponsor child's past. Many of the children we work with have some sort of trauma or abuse in their past. We want to focus on their present and future.
- Going into detail about material possessions.
- Asking them if they have a boyfriend or girlfriend. We do not want to encourage the need for a romantic relationship.
- Calling your sponsor child "son" or "daughter". These terms have very different meanings in different cultures, and we want to keep healthy boundaries in place.
- Making promises you are not certain you can keep, such as plans to visit their children's home. It is better to not make promises at all.
- Using slang that may not translate well.
- Asking them what they would like as a gift from you (we don't want your sponsor children to look to you for material gain).