

Gifts for Sponsored Children

We are happy for you to send gifts to your sponsored child, but would ask that you restrict this to a maximum of two or three times a year. Not all children receive regular gifts and by limiting yours to birthdays and Christmas, you can help prevent jealousy between families, as well as allowing the Field Office staff enough time to acknowledge your gift.

Here are some suggestions and you may come across equally suitable items. However, some Field Offices in certain countries have problems with customs duty, even on small items.

If you are not sure whether your gift is suitable or you have any queries, please refer to the advice on the reverse of this guide, or feel free to contact our Supporter Helpline on **01908 841010** and one of the team will be happy to assist you. Phone lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Please remember that any gift you send should be packed flat in an A5 size envelope and sent by letter post. On no account should boxes or parcels be sent.

PRE-SCHOOL

Balloons
Stickers
Small picture books

Finger puppets
Card mobile
Rag book

Badges
Brightly coloured pictures/postcards

BOYS

Football stickers
Cardboard model
Local football team photo

Pencil case
Deflatable beach ball*
Baseball cap

Picture cards

GIRLS

Hair ribbons / slides, etc
Pencil case
Hairbrush / comb
Small amount of knitting wool*

Unbreakable mirror
Picture cards
Small rag doll

Small vanity bag
Small tape measure
Plastic beads

OLDER CHILDREN

Picture postcards
Small notebook
Skipping rope

Embroidery thread*
Scarf*
"Snap" cards

Handkerchief*

ANY AGE

Plain exercise books
Small photograph album
Purse or wallet

Pens / pencils
Photo of sponsor / family
Bookmarks

Craft materials*
Easy English story picture books
Pictures of animals / birds / flowers

*PLEASE DO NOT SEND THESE ITEMS TO THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

Zimbabwe:	Beach balls
India :	Maps, globes or atlases
Kenya:	Clothing and textiles
Laos:	No Religious Pictures

CLOTHES

Sending a T-shirt or a pair of shorts is acceptable. However, please note that in most developing countries it is not culturally acceptable to give or receive such intimate items as underwear, but socks would be welcomed by children in Albania – Armenia - Ghana – Mozambique – Niger – Senegal – Uganda - Sri Lanka and Latin American countries.

DISPOSABLE CAMERAS

This type of gift could be interpreted as an invasion of a child's privacy – even though motives for sending it may be completely innocent. A disposable camera would not allow us to monitor the photographs before they were developed. As much as we value our supporters' wishes, the children and their families' dignity must have priority.

PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

World Vision has deemed it necessary to apply certain blanket policies in order to protect the children under our care. Even though many photos may be considered completely innocent within our own culture, they can cause offence to individuals who live and work in the many diverse cultures where our programmes are running. For this reason, field staff have asked us to only forward those which are in keeping with the World Vision Child Protection Policy (which can be viewed online at www.worldvision.org.uk or a copy can be sent by post). In line with this policy, we screen all photographs for appropriateness in the same way that we screen all letters for suitability before they are passed to the children. We trust you will understand our difficulty in applying these decisions and the reasons why we have had to take this stance.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND

- **Anything valuable, fragile or dangerous**
- **Batteries and any items which run on batteries**
- **Memory sticks, CDs, DVDs, cassettes**
- **Cameras or Disposable cameras – see note above**
- **Gold or silver jewellery**
- **Soap. Toiletries and makeup**
- **Medicine or pills of any kind**
- **Money – including souvenir coins**
- **Stamps**
- **Knives or sharp scissors**
- **Monster or halloween items**
- **Newspaper cuttings about events in the child's country**
- **Seeds of any kind**
- **Sweets or chocolates**
- **Underwear/socks – see heading "clothes" above**
- **Liquids over 100ml – e.g. paints, glue**
- **Perfumes**
- **Extra large or heavy items**