



Save the Children®

TIPS FOR WRITING AN ENCOURAGING LETTER



Photo: Victoria Ziegler

This is an unsettling time for many children, and a letter from you can go a long way to let your sponsored child know that they are not alone in this pandemic. To help you write an encouraging and uplifting letter to your sponsored child, we kindly ask that you follow these important steps:

THINGS TO DO:

PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT

Sponsored children want to feel encouraged that they are not alone. Knowing that you're thinking of them, and took the time to write to them during this time, will go a long way.

SHARE AN ACTIVITY THAT HAS BROUGHT JOY TO YOUR LIFE RECENTLY

Sharing how you have learned to cope with stress can encourage sponsored children to explore and develop their own healthy habits. Have you been hiking? Did you learn how to knit? Share your new joy with your sponsored child and ask them about their hobbies!

LET THEM KNOW THEY AREN'T ALONE

While it is important for us to create physical distance from others during this time, we do not want children to feel emotionally alone. Let your sponsored child know you are thinking of them and rooting for them!

THINGS TO AVOID:

ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SPONSORED CHILD'S HEALTH

In the interest of protecting your sponsored child's privacy, we ask that you refrain from asking about the health/medical status of your sponsored child or their family, including whether or not they have been personally affected by the coronavirus. This pandemic can be a frightening time for children, and a well-meaning question could potentially evoke feelings of fear or insecurity.

PORTRAY A NEGATIVE OUTLOOK

We understand you might be struggling – we all are. The current pandemic has affected all of us in tremendous ways. However, it is important to remember that sponsored children are dealing with their own fears and anxieties and that they are just children, with a limited understanding of what is going on. As such, please ensure letters are framed in a positive light – with the ultimate goal of providing an uplifting message.

EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Please be patient and understanding that each child is navigating their own unique situation which may prevent them from responding immediately. Our staff is also working through a new process, so they appreciate your patience as well.

Thank you for your dedication and generosity during these tumultuous times. The uplifting words you write to your sponsored child can make all the difference in letting them know we are all in this together!