

Helpful Guide to Writing To Your Sponsored Child

Getting Started

- Begin with a warm greeting and a brief introduction: your name, where you live, and who is in your family.
- Share a few details from everyday life—your work or studies, your city or neighborhood, and one or two hobbies you enjoy.
- Let your sponsored child know you are happy to know them and grateful for the chance to write.

What to Talk About

- Everyday life: family members, pets, weekend activities, and any traditions or holidays you enjoy.
- Encouragement: remind your sponsee that their education matters and that you believe in their dreams and goals.
- Positive stories: include simple, upbeat moments from your life that a child can easily picture and understand.

Helpful “Do” Guidelines

- Ask open-ended questions that invite more than “yes” or “no,” such as “What do you like to do after school?”
- Keep your tone warm and hopeful; offer sincere compliments when you learn about their efforts or achievements.
- Use short sentences and straightforward language so your letter is easier to translate and easier for a child to read.

Things to Avoid

- Steer clear of questions that might feel painful or embarrassing, such as those about failing a class, loss, or difficult home situations.
- Avoid intimate terms of address like “my dear” or “love,” which may not fit the cultural context.
- Do not focus on material possessions or compare lifestyles and living conditions.
- Do not try to change your sponsored child’s faith or beliefs; it is fine to share your own gently, but not to persuade.

Good Questions to Ask

Include just a few questions in each letter so your sponsee does not feel overwhelmed. For example:

- What is your favorite activity to do for fun?
- Who lives with you, and how is everyone doing?
- What is something you feel proud of or think you are good at?
- What is the weather like where you live right now?
- How far is your school or community center from your home, and how do you get there?

If you know the child’s area has experienced a disaster or emergency, it is thoughtful to say you are thinking of them and gently ask how they and their family are doing.

Sample Letter to a Sponsored Child

[Child's Name],

Hello. How are you? I hope you are having a good week. I am happy to write to you today and to be your sponsor.

My name is [Your First Name], and I live in [City, Country]. In my family, I live with [briefly describe who you live with—parents, children, spouse, or friends] and we enjoy spending time together. I work as [your job] / I am studying [your field], and I am grateful for the chance to support you.

These days, I have been [one simple thing you've been doing lately—working, studying, gardening, reading, cooking, walking]. In my free time, I like to [one or two hobbies, such as reading, playing sports, drawing, dancing, or listening to music]. Right now, the weather where I live is [short description, for example “very warm and sunny” or “cold and rainy”].

I want you to know that I am proud of you for working hard in school and doing your best. Your education is important, and you have many talents and a bright future. Even though we live far apart, I think of you and I am glad to be part of your life.

I would love to learn more about you. If you would like, you can tell me:

- What do you like to do for fun after school or on weekends?
- What is your favorite subject in school, and why do you like it?
- Who lives with you at home, and how is everyone doing?
- What is something you feel proud of or something you think you are good at?

If you have time to write back, I will be very happy to read your letter. Thank you for sharing your life with me.

Please take good care of yourself and keep doing your best in school. I am cheering for you.

With warm wishes,
Your sponsor,
[Your First Name]