

GUIDELINES TO WRITING OR SENDING PACKAGES

DO

- We prefer you send your letter via e-mail to sponsorships@orphanagesupport.org. If this is not possible, you can send a written letter to: OSSO Sponsorships, P.O. Box 345, Rexburg, ID 83440. Please keep the letters simple and relatively short, and any photos (2 maximum per e-mail) should not be high resolution, as they make the files too big.
- Describe your country, city or town where you live, the climate in your country and what your surroundings look like during the different seasons.
- Include interesting topics such as your interests and hobbies.
- Write about the customs and traditions of your country, the holidays you celebrate and the types of food you enjoy.
- Invite your children to write to your sponsored child/children. It might also be interesting for them to discuss the school they attend and describe what a typical day in school is like for them.
- Send photographs of yourself and your family, keeping in mind that photographs of individuals in revealing clothing might be considered offensive, especially in religiously-conservative orphanages.
- Send packages with small gifts for your child/children, ideally that can be shared with the other children in the orphanage. Excellent choices are hair ribbons, stickers, photographs, postcards from different locations, foreign stamps, paper dolls, etc. Any packages over one pound in weight will cost an extra \$4/pound in addition to the postage it requires to ship to the OSSO office in Rexburg. Please send a check for this amount (made payable to OSSO) with the package. All letters/packages will be opened by OSSO before being shipped to your child so OSSO knows what items are contained in the letter/package.
- Keep your letters short and use simple words or phrases. This will help in correct translation of the letters as well as better understanding by the child/children.
- Celebrate the differences between you and your sponsored child/children and appreciate the diversity of their culture!

DO NOT

- Discuss materialistic issues. For a child or youngster that has come from a life of poverty and abandonment, these types of issues are often difficult to understand. Please consider this when you send photographs or describe your personal surroundings to your sponsored child/children. Please be sensitive to discussions of material possessions or money that might create stark contrasts for children from very poor communities.
- Send anything directly to your child/children (money, checks or packages). There is no way to track or receipt these funds.
- Send large or expensive items.
- Expect items to get to the child/children quickly. It may take as much as 2-3 months to get small items. Letters, especially e-mailed letters, are much quicker but still take time to translate and forward on.
- Try contacting your child/children on your own in any way. Also, do not attempt to make an on-site visit to the orphanage on your own in any way. This is for the safety of the children, and you must go through the proper channels in order to do this.