



Get Ready to Pack a Shoebox

Start with a quality “wow” item such as a stuffed animal, soccer ball with pump, or clothing outfit that will capture the child’s attention the instant he or she opens the box. See our gift suggestions according to age and gender listed below for other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to fill the shoebox.

(Special ideas for girls and boys are indicated by for GIRL and for BOY.)

Ideas for All Ages

“Wow” Items

- Doll (For children from 5-14, please consider including accessories such as doll clothes or a small doll bed.)
- Soccer ball (Make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Stuffed animal
- Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or woodwind recorder)
- An outfit of clothing to wear

Personal Care Items

- Comb
- Hairbrush
- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Bar soap (packaged and/or in a container)
- Adhesive bandages (Colorful ones can

help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment.)

- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (Consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to maximize the space.)
- Blanket

Clothing & Accessories

- Shirts and pants
- Pillowcase dress (loose-fitting sundress)
- Underwear
- Shoes and socks
- Flip-flops
- Hat/scarf/mittens
- Sunglasses
- Tote bag/purse
- Hair bows
- Friendship bracelets (yarn or embroidery thread)

Crafts & Activities

- Puzzles
- Sketch book/sketch pad
- Crayons/colored pencils

Toys

- Foam ball
- Kickball (Make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated)
- Tennis ball
- Slinky
- Etch A Sketch

A Personal Note

- You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself, your family, or group. If you include your name and an address, the child may be able to write back.

Do Not Include



- Candy
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- War-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures
- Chocolate or food, including seeds, fruit rolls or other fruit snack, or drink mixes (powdered or liquid)
- Liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers, aerosol cans

Ages 2-4

Crafts & Activities

- Pencils
- Small manual pencil sharpener
- Pencil case
- Markers

- Pens
- Coloring pads
- Coloring books
- Picture book
- Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue.)
- Small adhesive tape
- Watercolor set [Finger paint palette/crayons/markers (non-liquid containers), paint brushes, canvas or paper]

- Playdough (Consider adding plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils the child can use with the playdough.)
- Stickers
- Skipping rope/Jump rope
- Make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.

Toys

- Finger puppets
- Play cars/trucks/boats
- Plastic tools
- Plastic dinosaurs
- Interactive toys that include push buttons, lights, noise (include extra batteries)

Ages 5-9

“Wow” Items

- Backpack
- Toy truck or boat

Personal Care Items

- Non-liquid lip balm
- Flashlight (solar-powered or hand-crank; if battery operated, be sure to include extra batteries of the type needed)
- Compact mirror

School Supplies

- Pencils
- Small manual pencil sharpener
- Erasers
- Colored pencils
- Pencil case
- Pens
- Crayons
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Blank index cards
- Solar-powered calculator
- Safety (blunt tip) scissors
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue.)
- Small adhesive tape

Clothing & Accessories

- Wrist watch

Crafts & Activities

- Coloring books
- Watercolor set [Finger paint palette/crayons/markers (non-liquid containers), paint brushes, canvas or paper]
- Playdough (Consider adding plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils the child can use with the playdough.)
- Stickers
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Binoculars
- Building blocks
- Skipping rope/jump rope
- Tool set

- Make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.

Toys

- Costume items to play dress-up, such as crowns and costume jewelry
- Plastic toys and toy figures
- Baseball and mitt
- Tennis ball
- Plastic dinosaurs, animals, action figures (nothing war-related)
- Toy cars
- Yo-yo
- Small Frisbee
- Small kite
- Etch-A-Sketch
- Hacky sack

Ages 10-14

“Wow” Items

- Backpack
- Toy truck or boat

Personal Care Items

- Non-liquid lip balm
- Flashlight (solar-powered or hand-crank; if battery operated, be sure to include extra batteries of the type needed)
- Compact mirror
- Stick deodorant
- Washable/reusable cloth menstrual pads

School Supplies

- Pencils
- Small manual pencil sharpener
- Erasers
- Colored pencils
- Pencil case
- Pens
- Crayons
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Blank index cards
- Solar-powered calculator
- Safety (blunt tip) scissors
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue.)
- Small adhesive tape

Clothing & Accessories

- Hair bows, ribbons, accessories
- Wrist watch
- Bandana
- Bead jewelry/bead kit

Crafts & Activities

- Binoculars
- Compass
- Chalkboard with chalk
- Tool set with work gloves
- Fishing kit
- Brightly colored rope or twine
- Gardening kit with gloves and trowel (no seeds)
- Magnets
- Kaleidoscope
- Skipping rope/jump rope

- Playing cards
- Marbles
- Sewing kit, fabric (1-2 yards), & ribbon
- Laminated decorative pictures with looped ribbon attached as a picture hanger

Toys

- Foam ball
- Kickball (Make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
- Baseball and mitt
- Tennis ball
- Yo-yo
- Small Frisbee
- Small kite
- Etch-A-Sketch
- Hacky sack