



BOXES FOR KIDS ENTERING FOSTER CARE

## The Need for Your Help

The majority of children coming into foster care can wait in an office for up to four hours while a social worker calls to find them suitable placement. This is usually a time of high anxiety for children as they've recently been removed from their home and are being moved to a relative, kinship or new, unknown foster home.

The notion of a Welcome Box is a simple one. While the child is waiting, a social worker gives the child a box of age-appropriate items to occupy their time while in the office. It will also be a box they can carry and take with them into their new relative or foster home.

Since many children enter foster care with very few belongings, being removed from the home and entering foster care or relative care can be a frightening and very traumatic experience for children. Some children come with very few belongings; the psychological importance of knowing someone cares cannot be underestimated.

## How to Create Your Welcome Box

1. Buy a storage box. Photo boxes work great because they are sturdy and may have fun designs.
2. Fill the box with the "essentials" first and then at least seven "extras."
3. Tape a handwritten note to the inside lid of the box that includes an encourage message such as "you are special," "you are cared about," "you matter," "you are important," "made for you with love."
4. Cut out the welcome box label (found below), identify the gender and age bracket and tape it to the narrow side of your box.
5. Place a rubber band around your box.
6. Contact your welcome box coordinator to determine when and where to drop off your welcome box.

## Welcome Box Coordinators

### East and Kansas City Regions:

Cornelia DeLee-Dickson, [cdeleedickson@kvc.org](mailto:cdeleedickson@kvc.org)

Nancy Snyder Killingsworth, [nsnyder@kvc.org](mailto:nsnyder@kvc.org)

### West and Wichita Regions:

Tori Moler, [tori.moler@st-francis.org](mailto:tori.moler@st-francis.org)

**Thank you for helping a child in need feel loved!**

## Welcome Box Ideas

Feel free to include your own creative ideas that will bring delight to a waiting child.  
 Avoid the following items: breakable, perishable, aerosol cans, mouthwash that contains alcohol, razors, vitamins and any violent toys such as action figures, guns and knives.

CATEGORY	2-4 YEARS	5-11 YEARS	12 YEARS & UP
TOYS	stuffed animals, small cars, small dolls, balls, plastic toys, yoyo's, Etch-A-Sketch, Slinky, Go Fish or Memory card games	same as 2-4	deck of playing cards, Rubik's cubes, Etch-A-Sketch, Slinky, yo-yo's, stuffed animals
ARTS & CRAFTS	pens, pencils, crayons, pencil sharpeners, coloring books, writing pads, stickers, bead sets, Play-Doh, bubbles	same as 2-4	crossword puzzles, word search and doodle books, Madlibs
HYGIENE	brushes, combs, fun band aids	brushes, combs, fun band aids, chapsticks, mirrors	brushes, combs, mirrors, chapsticks, deodorants, nail clippers, nail polishes, bath gels, lotions, travel-sized toiletries
MISCELLANEOUS	blankets, sippy cups, water bottles, plastic jewelry, mini photo albums, sunglasses, small lollipops	photo frames, mini photo albums, cozy socks, water bottles, gum, mints, small lollipops, foldable nylon bags for carrying possessions	same as 5-11

## Welcome Box Label



*This Welcome Box is for:*

NEUTRAL \_\_\_\_\_ 2-4 YEARS \_\_\_\_\_

BOY \_\_\_\_\_ 5-11 YEARS \_\_\_\_\_

GIRL \_\_\_\_\_ 12 YEARS & UP \_\_\_\_\_