



HOPE IN A POLICY SUITCASE CHECKLISTS FOR ORGANIZERS

Complete Suitcases and/or Toiletry Kit Packing Events: NEW ITEMS ONLY

Thank you so much for organizing a packing event or packing a suitcase or duffel bag to benefit Hope in a Suitcase and Los Angeles children entering foster care! We are very grateful!

Because we are a small, volunteer-run non-profit, **we rely on event organizers and volunteers maintain our very narrow mission and strict quality policy.** If you are organizing a group of packers or youth packer, please remember to allocate some time for “quality control.”

As the intent of our gesture is to send a message of love and dignity during a vulnerable time, please emphasize **Quality over Quantity**, and include **NEW ITEMS ONLY**. We would rather receive 5 - 10 Perfect and Complete projects than 100 that are missing items or of lesser quality.

Remember, children in Foster Care are just as (perhaps more) particular as your own children. Please do not include items that would not be a comfort and joy for a child receive! Retail and wholesale stores such as Costco, Target, Ross, and Old Navy carry nice quality items for a reasonable price.

Also, please note that specific suitcases may not be requested / distributed in the same month it was received, as requests by social workers do not *always* align with the timing of volunteer efforts. **Please do NOT include Holiday Themed items, books or notes! Please DO pack a balance of hot, medium / cool-weather clothing, so the receiving child will have something comfortable regardless of the weather outside the week he or she enters foster care.**

YOUR EFFORT MAKES AN ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE! THANK YOU!

CHECKLIST 18 - 24 months

_____ Carry-on or Medium Roller Suitcase; Duffel Bag – Kids this age LOVE the independence of a cute roller suitcase

_____ Blanket

_____ 4-6 pairs of socks

_____ sweater or sweatshirt

_____ 2 pajamas or sleepers (no “sleepsacks” or “sleepnests” please)

_____ 3-4 all season comfortable outfits for everyday play. BALANCE COOL & WARM WEATHER ITEMS – The bag may be received in January or it may be received in August. For example:

_____ 2-3 sweatpants / leggings

_____ 1-2 pair shorts

_____ 4-5 shirts (majority short sleeved)

_____ board book

_____ small stuffed animal or toy

_____ Optional Extras: pacifier, diaper cream, diapers, wipes, note from another child “You Are Loved”; “You Are Special” (with stickers or colorful drawing).

NEW ITEMS ONLY – PLEASE CLIP TAGS – RECIPIENT SHOULD NOT SEE PRICE, BUT TAG REMNANT CAN REMAIN SO THEY KNOW ITEMS ARE NEW.

Label completed Suitcase or Duffel according to Size & Gender, eg “Baby Girl 18 months”; “Boy 24 months”

PLEASE NOTHING SHARP OR EDIBLE. IF PACKING FOR TODDLERS, NO CHOKING HAZARDS

Remove plastic wrap & hangers. Clip all price tags in ½ so children and families can see the items is new, but prices & barcodes are not visible. Label completed Suitcase or Duffel according to Size & Gender Identity: For example: Girl Size 18 months. Boy Size 24 months. If in doubt about sizing, please keep in mind that it is better to have clothing be on the large side than too tight or too small. For example, clothing inside a Girl Size 18 – 24 month bag should be “Size 24 months” or “size 18-24 months”. If you have an item size 12-18 months, it would go inside a Size 12 month or size 12-18 month bag (not Size 18 month bag). Please pack neatly, with cute & extra items (e.g. book or stuffed animal) on top.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Children Size 2T – Children Size 10

NEW ITEMS ONLY

_____ New Cheerful Roller-Sized Suitcase (Carry-On or Medium Sized) or Duffel Bag (Medium or Large)

_____ Pajamas 1-2 (w/ bottoms; no nightgowns)

_____ Underwear 5 – 6 pairs

_____ Socks 5 – 6 pairs

_____ Sweatshirt

_____ T-shirts 5 (mostly short – sleeved please)

_____ 2-3 Sweatpants, Athletic Pants or Leggings

_____ 1 Regular Pants (e.g. Jeans, Khakis, etc....some stretch or elastic waist preferred for easy fit)

_____ 1-2 Athletic Shorts

_____ Small Throw Blanket or Toddler Blanket

_____ Age & Theme Appropriate Book (please be sensitive to “family” topics and other triggers)

_____ Toothbrush

_____ Small stuffed animal or toy

_____ Optional Extras: Lightweight Jacket, Complete Toiletry Kit, Simple Note of Support (“You Are Beautiful” “You Are Strong” “You Are Loved”); Slippers, Art supplies/ Journal Nightlight or flashlight, For Girls a Casual All-Season Dress.

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Remove plastic wrap & hangers. Clip all price tags in ½ so children and families can see the items is new, but prices & barcodes are not visible. Label completed Suitcase or Duffel according to Size & Gender Identity: For example: Girl Size 5T. Boy Size 8-10. If in doubt about sizing, please keep in mind that it is better to have clothing be on the large side than too tight or too small! For example, clothing inside a Girl Size 5 bag should be “Size 5”. If you have an item that is size 4/5, it would go inside a Size 4 bag.

If you are packing bags for size 8-10, clothing should either be “Size 8-10” or “Size 10”. Clothing that is labelled “Size 8” would go inside a Size 8 or Size 7/8 Bag (not a size 8-10 bag). Please pack neatly, with cute & extra items (e.g. book or stuffed animal) on top.

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