



BOXES FOR KIDS ENTERING FOSTER CARE
WHILE WAITING IN A DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES OFFICE



THIS WELCOME BOX IS FOR:

	2-4 YEARS ____
BOY ____	5-9 YEARS ____
GIRL ____	10-12 YEARS ____
	13-17 YEARS ____



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HOW TO PUT YOUR BOX TOGETHER

1. Buy a photo storage box (no shoeboxes)
Photo storage boxes are very sturdy, work great and often come with fun designs. They can be found at craft stores like Jo-ann Fabrics and Michaels.
2. Fill the box with the ESSENTIAL items from the list and at least 7 items from the EXTRAS list.
3. Tape a handwritten note to the inside lid of the box that includes an encouraging message such as:
 - “You are special”
 - “You are cared about”
 - “You matter”
 - “You are important”
 - “Made for you with love”Please, no sealed messages or religious language.
4. Cut out the welcome box label (on the back pages of this booklet), identify the gender and age bracket that your box corresponds with and tape it to the narrow side of the box.
5. Place a rubber-band around your box.
6. Contact your local welcome box coordinator to determine a drop off time and location. Feel free to contact them if you have any questions. (Please do not drop off directly to DSHS).

To contact your Welcome Box Coordinator or to see this booklet online please refer to this web page:
www.houseofprovidence.com/mission/welcome-boxes

THANK YOU FOR LOVING CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE
THROUGH YOUR WELCOME BOX

HERE'S THE SCOOP...

The majority of children coming into foster care in Clark County must wait in an office for 1-2 hours while a social worker calls to find them a 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 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 foster home. Since many children enter their new foster homes with very few belongings, the psychological importance of owning nice possessions cannot be underestimated.

Making a Welcome Box is a simple way to comfort a foster child. It's also a great way to involve your own family in caring for less fortunate kids in our area.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

Below you will find a simple guide for filling your Welcome Box with fun, creative, age-appropriate items. Please include **everything** listed under “essential” and 7 of the “extra” items (toys, arts and crafts, hygiene, etc).

Please do not include: breakable items, aerosol cans, mouthwash that has alcohol, razors, Swiss army knives, vitamins, violent toys or action figures (such as toy guys or knives).

AGE 2-4

ESSENTIALS:

coloring book, crayons or colored pencils, two non-perishable snacks (i.e. applesauce, pretzels, fruit snacks, crackers), toddler-sized toothbrush, non-flouride toothpaste, flashlight (please include batteries), nightlight, socks.

EXTRAS:

TOYS -- small stuffed animal, cars, small doll, bouncy balls (nothing chokable), plastic toys, toy harmonica or kazoo, slinky, small etch-a-sketch, etc. ARTS & CRAFTS -- stickers, playdough, bubbles. HYGIENE -- brush, comb, fun band-aids. OTHER -- Taggie blanket, sippy cup, water bottle, hair accessories, sunglasses, small board books.

AGE 5-9

ESSENTIALS:

coloring book or a pad of drawing paper; markers, colored pencils or crayons; two non-perishable snacks (i.e. applesauce, pretzels, fruit snacks, crackers, granola bars); toothbrush and toothpaste (can be travel size); flashlight (please include batteries) and nightlight, socks, underwear.

EXTRAS:

TOYS -- small stuffed animal, small cars, small doll, plastic dinosaurs, toy harmonica or kazoo, yo-yo, slinky, Go Fish or Memory playing card game, magnifying glass, small Lego set, paddle ball or inflatable punching ball. ARTS & CRAFTS -- pen, pencils, pencil sharpener, stamps and ink pad, stickers, bead sets, playdough, bubbles. HYGIENE -- brush, comb, chapstick, fun band-aids. OTHER -- small photo album, books, water bottle, watch, hair accessories, sunglasses, foldable nylon bag for carrying possessions.

AGE 10-12

ESSENTIALS:

blank journal or drawing pad; markers or colored pencils; two non-perishable snacks (i.e. applesauce, pretzels, fruit snacks, crackers, granola bars); toothbrush and toothpaste (can be travel size); flashlight (please include batteries) and nightlight, socks, underwear.

EXTRAS:

TOYS -- deck of playing cards, Memory or Go Fish card games, yo-yo, magnifying glass, paper airplane kit, small Lego set, paddle ball or inflatable punching ball. ARTS & CRAFTS -- mad libs, word search, bead sets, silly putty. HYGIENE -- brush, comb, chapstick, compact mirror, fun band-aids, cardboard nail file, nail polish, bath gel, travel size toiletries. OTHER -- small photo album, books, water bottle, watch, hair accessories, sunglasses, gum, mints, lollipops, foldable nylon bag for carrying possessions.

AGE 13-17

ESSENTIALS:

blank journal and/or drawing pad; colored pencils; two or more non-perishable snacks (i.e. applesauce, pretzels, fruit snacks, crackers, granola bars); toothbrush and toothpaste (can be travel size); flashlight (please include batteries), socks, underwear.

EXTRAS:

TOYS -- deck of playing cards, ear phones, books. ARTS & CRAFTS -- mad libs, word search, pencil sharpener, pens, pencils. HYGIENE -- brush, comb, chapstick, compact mirror, deodorant, cardboard nail file, nail polish, bath gel, lotion, travel size toiletries, feminine products in a discreet case. OTHER -- gift cards (to Burger-ville, McDonald's, Subway, Wal Mart, Target, Fred Meyer, Payless Shoes, movie theater, Starbucks, etc.), flip flops, hoodie sweatshirts, sunglasses, foldable nylon bag for carrying possessions in, hair bands, gum, mints.