

Giving Gifts and Purchasing Gifts for your child

Giving out gifts to strangers may be a new concept for our culture. However the Chinese see it as a way of building rapport and friendship. It is like setting up a bridge between the two banks of rivers. You are not required to give gifts. Most of our families prefer share gifts as a way to express their gratitude. The gift itself is not as important as what it symbolizes: respect, friendship, and closeness.

We recommend that you bring 4 female and 4 male gifts (at most) to be given to the orphanage director, aunts, local officials, and children. Please avoid giving gifts that are labeled "Made in China" as American made products are much more popular in China. We recommend packing gifts unwrapped and also packing gift bags. We recommend packing gift bags along with your unwrapped gifts and waiting to wrap your gifts until you are in your child's province.

For orphanage director (1) (\$15 - \$20)

Inexpensive cologne or perfume, sample make-up from department stores, scarves, ties, western shampoo (pick one with a nice bottle, it is expensive in China), local items from your state, stationary, and nice fountain pens.

For aunts (2-3)

Skin care products, local items from your state, silver jewelry, make-up sets, bath sets, or writing pens.

For local officials (4-5)

American commemorative stamps, cartons of cigarettes (many Chinese men smoke-even if the official does not smoke, he can treat his guest to an American cigarette), and pens with American flags

For orphanage children

Boxes of crayons, markers, coloring books, simple Legos(tm), clothing, disposable diapers, stacking cups, rattles, and, small balls.

Gift Kit

Another great gift idea it to create your own "kit" before your trip containing several small items. Suggested items to include in these kits are receiving blankets, small stuffed animals, socks, hats, onesies, sleepers, baby soap, powder, lotion, washcloths, and towels. Items for older children may include books, mittens, toothbrush/paste, coloring books and crayons, and quilts. General gifts may include M & M candies, small boxes of chocolate, and Snickers bars which are well received by the Chinese. Gifts that are made in America are very well received.

Chinese officials may feel embarrassed if you give them the gifts at the wrong time. The gifts are given as a group; your Guide will inform you of when and how to present the gifts. You can wrap the gifts in red or colorful paper or in gift bags, but avoid using the color white. White represents mourning in China. Please remember that these are suggestions; you do not have to follow the above list.

Gifts of Love

Over the years, families have wanted to donate gifts to the Chinese orphanages that cared for their children; gifts that improve the orphanages and enhance the lives of the children left behind but were constantly having a difficult time determining what to purchase. Great Wall China Adoption has found a way to let families express their gratitude through a program called “Gifts of Love” that organizes donations. The “Gifts of Love” program does all the work for you and your child’s orphanage will reap all the benefits by getting that needed washing machine, air conditioner, or whatever else it is that they might be lacking. This is an alternative to buying and carrying individual gifts with you when you travel. If you contribute to Gifts of Love, you do not need to bring any of the gifts listed in this email.

Here is how the program works:

If you would like to participate, please send a donation of \$195 (donations of more than \$195 are definitely welcome) made to Great Wall China Adoption. Once the donation is collected, Great Wall China Adoption will contact your child’s orphanage to find out what they need. Once the item is purchased, it is presented to the Orphanage Director. This “Gift of Love” will be given in your child’s name, so your child’s love for the nanny and orphanage will be remembered forever.

Benefits of donating:

- Less stress over individual gifts for the Director and the Nannies
- Saves on luggage space/weight
- Avoid Nanny/Directors getting the same gifts from adoptive families
- Benefits all the children left behind in the orphanage
- Tax deductible
- Your family and adopted child will always be remembered for your appreciation

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. You can also go to our website to read more about “Gift of Love.”

http://www.gwca.org/why_great_wall/charity_missions/gifts_of_love

Gifts From China

Since you are adopting a child from China, you may want to purchase some Chinese gifts to keep her heritage alive. Some parents prepare 16 presents, purchased while in China, to give to their child as a birthday present each year until they turn 16 years old. Popular gift ideas include: silk outfits, jade bracelets, jade birth sign pendants, spoon and fork with cloisonné handle, Chinese stamps, paper cuts (delicate paper crafted into beautiful artwork), "chop" with your child's name in Chinese, lion-head shoes, or nicely crafted chopsticks. Your Great Wall guides will be happy to give you more gift ideas while you are in China.