

## **What Goes Into A Shoebox?**

**Start with a “WOW” item** – something medium to large in size that will capture the child’s attention the instant he or she opens the box. **Ideas include:** Soccer ball with pump, Stuffed animal, Toys (puppets, trucks, etc.), Doll (baby, Barbie, etc.), Musical instrument, Outfit, Shoes

**Toys:** Include items that children will immediately embrace such as toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

**School Supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

**Non-liquid Hygiene Items:** Toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.

**Accessories:** T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

**Crafts:** Make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.

## **What’s Allowed in a Shoebox?**

**Are playing cards allowed?**

Yes! Playing cards can be included in your shoebox gifts.

**How about little toys like spiders, bugs, snakes, etc.?**

All of those items are allowed.

**Can we include batteries?**

Yes. However, if the batteries are loose, both ends must be covered with tape.

**Can videos, CDs, and DVDs be included?**

Yes, all of these may be included in your shoebox gifts. However, keep in mind that the children may not have a DVD player or CD player available.

**Can we include paint sets or glue bottles?**

No, both of these items are liquids and can’t be included in your shoebox gifts. However, dry paint sets (such as watercolors) or glue sticks are OK to pack!

**Can we include a toolkit with nails, screws, screwdrivers, and hammers?**

Yes! The only tools that can’t be included are saws or pocketknives.

**Are scissors okay?**

Yes! Scissors are okay.

**Can items with camouflage be included?**

If the child can wear or use the items without looking like a soldier, they are OK to include in your shoebox gift. Pink or colored camouflage is safe as are pencils, wallets, or socks.

**Are squirt guns allowed?**

Squirt guns can be included as long as they do not look like real guns. Brightly colored squirt guns are great to pack in your shoebox gift.

**Can glow sticks go in a shoebox gift?**

Yes, glow sticks are OK to pack in your gift. If the tube breaks, the liquid does not spill out and can't damage other items.

**Can we include wet wipes?**

Yes, wet wipes do not have enough liquid to spill out into the shoebox so they are OK to include in your gift.

**Can rubber balls be included if they have liquid glitter inside?**

No, these would be considered inappropriate because of the liquid.

**What type of candy is allowed in shoebox gifts?**

None. Unfortunately, we cannot send candy in the shoebox gifts.

**Is lip gloss OK to pack in a shoebox gift?**

Lip gloss is a liquid and can't be included. However, Chapstick, lip balm or lipstick can go!

**Can I include toothpaste in my shoebox?**

Toothpaste is NOT allowed in shoeboxes.

**Is Play-Doh OK to pack in a shoebox gift?**

Yes, Play-Doh can be included in your shoebox gift. However, some children might think it is edible.

**Can compact mirrors go in a shoebox gift?**

Yes. Compact mirrors can be included because if the glass shatters, it will be contained.