

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP | FAQs

### **What is the background of the children who need sponsoring?**

Children in Bali Kids child sponsorship scheme are already part of Bali kids projects and have already been identified by project staff as being in need of assistance..

### **Why should I sponsor a child?**

Child sponsorship is a long-term commitment to support the day-to-day costs of raising a child in a developing country.

### **Why sponsor a child with Bali Kids?**

Bali Kids works with local grassroots NGOs and communities that seek to become independent and self-sustainable. By sponsoring a child with Bali kids, you are helping him/her complete their education, as well as helping his/her community as this child can in return give back and help out.

### **Can I choose who I sponsor?**

You can select if you would like to sponsor a boy or a girl. If you have no preference then Bali Kids will select a child on your behalf where it is felt the need is greatest.

### **How does the child benefit?**

Your donations help to pay for care, shelter, food, clothing, school uniforms, books and basic health care for a child. Children also benefit emotionally from knowing that there are people in another country that care enough to support them.

### **How much of my contribution will reach my child?**

Every £1 of your contribution will go towards ensuring your child has a safe place to stay, a good education and remains healthy!.

### **What will I receive?**

You will receive a photograph and description of the child shortly after you sign up to be a sponsor. You will then receive at least one update per year about the child's progress as well as a letter or card from the child. In addition, you will receive Bali Kids newsletter twice a year which will update you on the whole of Bali Kids work.

### **Can I write and send gifts to my sponsored child?**

Yes, you may write to the child that you sponsor. Keeping in touch with your sponsored child is a great way to not only see the difference your contribution makes but also to bring happiness and confidence to the child by knowing that someone far away cares about their future and well being. A small letter can go a long way.

But it is important not to overwhelm the sponsored child either. As such, it is advisable that no more than 1 to 2 letters be sent a year. Many children might not be able to read, or might not know any English, in which case their caregiver/guardian/social worker will read it for them. It is also important not to write very long letters; one page will do. They love hearing about your daily life, your hobbies, where you live, your family, the weather etc. And it makes them even happier to receive pictures of you and your loved ones. But remember, these are children that live in extreme poverty and so it is best not to write about or send pictures of very expensive, materialistic things. Also, the children love receiving postcards! They are not only pretty pictures to them, but can be shared, and can be educational for them and their friends.

You may also send your sponsored child a gift. However we highly recommend it be small and not expensive. It is unfair for one child to receive an expensive gift when so many other children do not receive anything. Even better would be to send something the children could share.

Here are a few suggestions:

- A small puzzle
- Balloons
- Stickers
- Bubbles
- Colouring pencils and books

**Can I visit my sponsored child?**

Yes, you may visit the child you sponsor but this must be arranged through Bali Kids to ensure that your planned visit is convenient for them. You will be accompanied by project staff at all times during your visit and you will not be permitted to take the child away from the project area.

**What happens when the child I sponsor leaves the programme?**

When a child turns 18 years old or leaves the Bali Kids project to seek work or is reunited with his/her family, then he/she may no longer be eligible for sponsorship. When this happens, Bali Kids will inform the sponsor and offer you an alternative child to support. Bali Kids works with many vulnerable children, all of whom need support.

**What happens if I have to stop sponsoring a child?**

If, for unforeseen circumstances you become unable to continue to sponsor a child, Bali kids will do its best to find a replacement sponsor. It is very helpful, however, if you are able to warn Bali Kids that you need to stop your sponsorship in advance, to give us time to allocate that child to a new sponsor.

**Anything else I should know about?**

Bali Kids has learned from its partner organisations that most of the children in the projects do not have a very strong command of the English language and that written letters are sometimes not as appreciated as we all might hope; and they can cause jealousy. However, children in developing countries love receiving postcards. Postcards can be shared in the classrooms and centres, so all children can benefit from learning about people, places and things in the developed world.