



## Child Sponsorship Program

### Letter Writing Information

Writing to your sponsored child is by no means required, but it's both a fun experience and a learning process for our kids to write letters. When they receive a response, they're truly overjoyed. The encouragement sponsors can provide is so very important, and the special relationship that develops through the correspondence process makes the Fabretto family even stronger.

In Spanish, the Fabretto children call their sponsors "padrino" or "madrina", also meaning Godfather or Godmother. They refer to themselves as "ahijado" or "ahijada", which as you might guess, mean Godson or Goddaughter. These terms reflect the sentiments children feel about being sponsored.

Writing to your sponsored child:

- Write your letter in a Word document and attach it to the sending email. (If you're unable to do this, you can type your letter in the text of an email.)
- Email your response to [sponsoredchild@fabretto.org](mailto:sponsoredchild@fabretto.org). Please include the name of your sponsored child in the subject line (for example, "Letter for Carlos Jose").
- Feel free to attach photos as .jpg files. (Please don't embed the photos in your letter, just send them as .jpg attachments.)

Some things to keep in mind:

- Keep in mind that your sponsored child has very few material possessions. We suggest that you focus on telling him or her about your family and pets, and providing encouragement to continue studying and participating in Fabretto programs. It's fine to write about things like travel, as learning about other countries helps expand your child's horizons. Even writing about the weather, as boring as it may sound to you, is interesting to the children because Nicaragua only has two seasons: rainy and dry.

Feel free to ask questions; this often makes it easier for children to think of new things to say.

When writing to older children versus writing to younger children it is good to keep in mind that they will soon be on their way to applying for jobs and putting themselves out into the world. Telling them about your own work and encouraging them to study hard and stick with the program is especially important.

If you have children of your own we would like to encourage you to have them write to the sponsored child also, as we have learned from other sponsors that the dialogue developed between children from the U.S. and children in Nicaragua is a valuable learning experience for both sides.

- Our volunteer translators will translate letters written in English to Spanish.



***We encourage you to write to your sponsored child at any time.*** Good periods to consider are about 3 weeks before his or her birthday (to allow for translation time), around February to encourage the child in the new school year, and of course, in response to a letter that he or she has written to you. The children really do value the letters they receive from you and for many sponsors it is their favorite part of the program.

**Thank you, and enjoy corresponding with your sponsored child!**