

Thomson Family Adventures
Friends Across Borders Information
Destination: Japan

KONNICHIWA (hello)! Very soon you will be packing your bags and waiting for the flight that will start your adventure. Before you go, your child(ren) can write to a pen pal in Japan.

Your pen pal visit is near Chikatsuyu, a small village in the Nakahechi area of the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage trails. You'll have a chance to talk and play with children, and discover the economics and conditions of Japanese life.

Please follow the guidelines below to ensure effective communication.

BEGINNING COMMUNICATION - Kids

Attached are some fun templates and questions to help your kids get started! They can choose from one of the templates or write their own letter.

1. Your child is responsible for writing the first letter. We suggest writing about things that kids in Japan can relate to such as: sports, pets, and family. Photos and drawings are always a nice touch! Send their first letter as soon as possible.
2. Mail their letter to our local office in Watertown, MA or email me at Maria@familyadventures.com. All letters are delivered electronically to our colleagues in Japan.



GETTING RESPONSES

- Please be patient. Your pen pal will write a letter which will then be translated and delivered electronically to our local office in the U.S.
- We will then mail or e-mail the letter to you and your child.
- Your child can respond via our office to any letters they receive by following the beginning guidelines.

LEARN THE LANGUAGE!

Japanese is the primary language spoken in Japanese. Help your kids learn common Japanese words and phrases by encouraging them to include them in their letters to their pen pal!

- Konnichiwa (Hello)
- Yoroshiku (Nice to meet you)
- Onegai shimasu (Please)
- Arigatoo gozaimasu (Thank you)
- O-namee wa nan desu ka? (What's your name?)

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts to the individuals are not appropriate but donations to the program are accepted. If you would like to bring something, soccer balls or art supplies are greatly appreciated. We encourage families to bring something the whole community can share instead of gifts for individual kids. Kids always love to see photos or postcards from your hometown, so be sure to bring some of those along too!

Sincerely,

Maria DiCenso

Conversation Starters

Who? What? When? Where? How?

What is your favorite book?

When is your birthday?

Where are you from?

Do you have any pets?

How old are you?

Do you have any brothers or
sisters?

What is your favorite holiday?

What is your favorite ice cream
flavor?

What is your eye color?

What is your favorite month?
Why?

What is your favorite food?

What is your favorite movie?

How tall are you?

What type of music do you
listen to?

Who is your best friend?

Who is your hero?

Do you have any nicknames?

What is your favorite subject
in school?

