

# Conversation starters

Would you like to write to your sponsored student but you're not sure what to write to them about? Here are some tips to help you get started. These can be tailored depending on the age of your sponsored student.

- 1** Tell them about your favourite game and why you think it's fun. Ask them if they have a favourite game. It could be a sport or a board game.
- 2** Tell them about something that you are really good at. It could be cooking, running, spelling, remembering fun facts, telling jokes, drawing, making people feel special. Explain why you think you have that skill and how it makes you unique. Encourage your student to tell you about something they are good at too.
- 3** Tell them about a skill you would love to master and why. Ask them about a goal they have or a skill they would like to master in the coming year.
- 4** Tell them what you wanted to be when you were their age. Did you change your mind when you became an adult or did you get your childhood dream job? What is it? Ask them – If you could have any job in the world, what would it be?
- 5** Tell them about a pet you have now or had as a child. Why do you love them and what are they like? Does your sponsor student have any pets? What are their names?

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- 6** Ask them about what they most look forward to at school. And share what you enjoyed about school. It might have been Friday's because Friday was sports day and you loved playing outside. It might have been debating because you love arguing a point and you've always been very competitive. It might have been Science because you loved the experiments. Or it might have been that you got to see your friends every day and play hand-ball at lunch time.
- 7** Find out what your students hobbies, interests and goals are. Then try to expand on these as topics of conversation. For example if you know they are interested in cooking, you could send them some printed recipes they might like, or send them your favourite recipe.
- 8** You can even share some literature that may interest them or that may relate to a goal they have, for example, an article from a newspaper, a link to a website, the names of some books they could read.
- 9** Tell them about someone you admire and why. It could be someone famous or it could be a friend, a family member or a teacher you once had. Ask them to tell you who they admire and why.
- 10** Tell them about one thing that happened to you this week that made you laugh and ask them what made them laugh recently.