

Ideas for Interacting with Children in Haiti

During your time in Haiti, you will have many opportunities to engage with local children and their families. As you will find, our cultures are quite different. Things we normally say or do may come across as shocking to Haitians. Please take the time to ask the PWW Haiti team if you have an idea of something you would like to say or do to ensure it is culturally sensitive and acceptable.

Below are some other ideas for interaction and items you can bring to share.

Things to Bring:

- ◆ Digital cameras. The children find digital cameras fascinating. If you allow them to see the photos taken, it engages and amazes them. ***Please request permission before photographing people!***
- ◆ Bubbles.
- ◆ Favorite hand games.
- ◆ String or yarn for finger games.
- ◆ Soccer is a great way to engage children (bring balls and pumps).
- ◆ Stickers.
- ◆ Granola bars.
- ◆ Small candies. *Please do not bring gum to share.*
- ◆ Books in French.
- ◆ School supplies.



If you want to bring food, consider a supply of granola bars. Children are usually hungry and very appreciative of healthy snacks.

Whatever you decide to bring, please be sure to have enough to hand out to an entire group. This could be a family of 4-6, a school of 40-60, or a community of >100. The adults in Haiti appreciate receiving the same treats that are given to their children.

We encourage you to think of other ways to connect with these children. They will certainly want to interact with you. Sometimes simply holding their hands, smiling at them, or holding them is all that these children need to laugh and smile.

Learn a few Creole greetings and key phrases before visiting. This is something that requires little effort, yet has a big reward!