

Ready... Set... GO!

Preparing for Your Child's Arrival



4 WEEKS BEFORE CHILD'S ARRIVAL



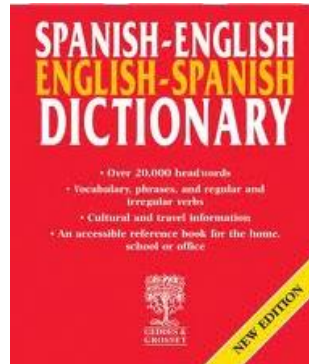
If you will need camp during your child's visit, research your options. If you aren't familiar with camps in the area, ask friends and Kidsave contacts for referrals. Remember to ask about bilingual counselors (Spanish speaking counselors a must to insure a successful camp experience) and scholarships or reduced rates for your host child. STAR (through the public schools), YMCA, and the Boys and Girls club can be good options.



If you are planning to use a babysitter, they must be approved and clearances completed (child abuse and criminal history) by your home study agency - give them paperwork **now** so they will be cleared in time.



If you are interested in improving or learning Spanish, now is a good time to check out some Spanish language CDs from the library to listen to while you are driving!



3 WEEKS BEFORE

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unless you are fluent in Spanish, upload “Google Translate” or a similar program to your Smart Phone. Good idea to have a Spanish-English dictionary in your home. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Write up House Routines for your child and have translated into Spanish – see Sample |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Make a sheet of simple phrases in Spanish and English to have in the child’s room, such as “I am hungry,” “I am thirsty,” “May I call my chaperone?” “I am cold,” etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If applicable, make sure your host child is signed up for camp if you haven’t already |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Add a signature line to every email you send out ... “please help us find a family for Jose this July...kidsave.org...” or “we have only 4 weeks to find a family for Jose...ask me about him ... kidsave.org” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Start your blog...include why you decided to host and how great your host child is. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Start mentioning the kids coming to your area on your Facebook page saying, “These amazing kids are coming on [Date]! Can you help me find _____ a family?” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contact (Email or call) your local paper to try to get an article published about your host child |



2 WEEKS BEFORE



Purchase a backpack to bring to the airport, and things to fill it, such as a disposable camera, stuffed animal, sweatshirt, pens, markers, coloring book, snack, and water.



Purchase some essentials for your child, such as a few shirts, shorts, pants, underwear, socks, pajamas, bathrobe, bathing suit, flip flops, hairbrush, toothbrush/toothpaste, deodorant, etc. Remember to ask friends with children around your host child's age if they have things they have outgrown. Don't be surprised if your child gets off the airplane with only a small bag of items and no spare clothes.



Buy a few nightlights for your house -- some kids may be fearful of the dark



Buy a few Spanish games such as a Spanish crossword puzzle book, Spanish Search-A-Word puzzle, etc for your child to have while here – available on Amazon and at bookstores.



Check your local area for Colombian restaurants and research Colombian recipes your host child may like



Contact your buddy family



Continue to advocate via Facebook, Twitter, email tagline, and with local media in your area

| CALENDAR | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | TH | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

1 WEEK BEFORE

Make a large calendar for your child, with pictures if possible (in Spanish), showing planned activities during the visit so they will get a sense of how they will spend their time while here – remember, structure can be very comforting!

Familiarize yourself with the translator list

Continue to advocate via Facebook, Twitter, email tagline, and with local media in your area



3 DAYS BEFORE

Check books for your child to read out from the library in Spanish or Spanish/English, including a Spanish/English picture dictionary if available – very useful! It can be nice to read books before bed in both languages.

Buy hot chocolate, bread, cheese, rice, beans, fruit and other foods your child might like.

Print out emergency health insurance form provided by Kidsave – put a copy in your wallet

Print out contact sheet and a put a copy on your the refrigerator and in your car

Schedule a lice check appointment for the day your child arrives or purchase a lice kit. We also recommend that your entire family use Tea Tree Oil Shampoo/Conditioner (available from health food stores and beauty supply stores), as lice are reportedly repelled by the smell (note: it does not kill lice). If your child does have lice, remember to toss their hairbrush and all hair accessories but let them know you are doing so and why. Wash their clothes in host water.

Prepare chaperone's room just in case she will be coming home with you from the airport

Continue to advocate via Facebook, Twitter, email tagline, and with local media in your area



2 DAYS BEFORE

- Make welcome sign for child for airport saying “Bienvenidos (name of child)”
- Schedule dental appointment , if applicable (If your dentist won’t do a free visit, check with you coordinator for dentists who will)
- Schedule eye doctor appointment, if applicable (If your eye doctor won’t do a free visit, check with your coordinator for eye doctors who will who will)

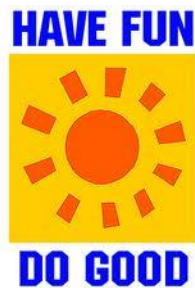


NIGHT BEFORE

- Charge up your camera and video camera!
- Review travel itinerary and airport instructions and check your email for any last-minute travel updates
- Set your alarm if you have an early morning arrival!
- Remember, you have ONE month! Keep at the advocacy via Facebook, Twitter, email tagline, and local papers in your area – you can do it!

THE MORNING OF!

- If you already have a Kidsave shirt, wear it -- if not, we'll have one for you
- Remember your Welcome Sign, the backpack for your child, and your camera
- Bring snacks/water for the car —it may have been awhile since he/she has eaten!
- Bring something to have in the car in case your host child gets car sick



LATER THAT DAY

- Check thoroughly or have your child's hair checked for lice by a professional.
- Plan to wash all of your child's things, particularly if lice are found. If eggs/nits or lice are found, schedule a re-check 4-6 days later—you'll be glad you did!
- Relax and enjoy...all your preparation has led up to this, and it's going to be wonderful!