

## Christmas Gifts for Children of Prisoners in Birmingham

Mothers' Union provide a range of presents for both Winson Green and Swinfen Hall for prisoners to give to their children at Christmas. This is a vital part of our action and outreach work and is very welcomed by both prisons.

Each gift should cost no more than £2 – and we need gifts for all ages (up to age 10) – suitable for both boys and girls. Gifts should be brand new and in original packaging (where appropriate) and should not be toy guns (or similar) and not have any faith base (eg not the Nativity story) as gifts need to be suitable for families of all faiths.

### **HERE IS THE INFORMATION NEEDED ABOUT WHAT TO BUY AND WHAT NOT TO BUY!**

#### **Gifts needed for prisoners children at Birmingham and Swinfen:**

We need gifts for all ages up to 16 at Birmingham, these are given to visiting families

We need gifts for children up to about 9-10 at Swinfen, mainly under 5s and 5-7

These are given to prisoners families and other children visiting during Christmas week

The gifts need to be suitable for both boys and girls

Suggested price £2 - £3.00, pound shops, supermarkets and Wilkinsons are good sources

#### Criteria

1. must be new and in original packaging where possible, obviously this does not apply to colouring books
2. no soft toys or balls
3. not contain anything sharp e.g. pencil sharpeners, scissors, knives, needles, screwdrivers (often found in kits!) Plastic needles or knitting needles are OK if in sealed kits as are plastic scissors.
4. no wax crayons – colouring pencils and felt tips are fine
5. no play dough or modelling clay, plasticine etc
6. no battery toys
7. no clothing, gloves, scarves etc

#### Ideas

1. colouring books and pencils, felts etc sticker activities books and pictures
2. painting sets, colour by numbers, .
3. feely books, other books including card ones. Annuals difficult, as are football team items, they don't all support the blues or Man United!
4. puzzle books like word searches, mazes etc, not crossword books or sudukos
5. construction kits – read contents lego fine but no screwdrivers!
6. cars, trucks, plastic models e.g.dinosaurs, farm yard
7. jewellery like tiara, necklaces etc on a sealed card, jewellery kits
8. magic sets
9. games – reasonably simple, etc, matching card games, connect 4 – no ordinary playing cards or games with dice included!!
10. wind up torches, very popular with boys
11. sewing/knitting sets, plastic knitting needles ok
12. tea sets, baby bath toys - plastic

If you have an idea and want to check it please ring Christine or one of the Trustees on 0121 643 0938 or email us at [office@mubham.org.uk](mailto:office@mubham.org.uk) – please do not wrap presents, we wrap presents as suitable for either boy or girl so additional donations of wrapping paper welcomed same design either red or blue background – large rolls needed not individual sheets.

People last year were very generous and imaginative, it was amazing what pound shops have nearer Christmas, smaller packets of felts, coloured pencils we can use in the crèche during the year.

Gifts can be left on the MU desk on Floor 2, 1 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 “BJ - **they should not be wrapped.**

**Thank you ☺**