

Personal Needs

- *Flexibility* - in moving back and forth between countries, languages and friends. Willingness to participate in different situations.
- *Farewells* - saying goodbye to family, friends, pets and familiar territory. This happens both when leaving their Australian home and their location home.
- *Safety* - when travelling abroad and in Australia. Protection from disease, political unrest, illness, and natural disasters.
- *Adaptation* - that the child would feel part of the social group and cope with (often) learning in a language other than English. Pray they will not put one country above the other in their hearts.
- *Home Assignment* - the pressure of being 'on show' when visiting link churches (tiredness, behaviour, unsettledness, sharing the family with 'strangers').

P.S. We long to see you, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. (Romans 1.11-12)

- Be sensitive! Ask their parents before singling them out with questions etc in Sunday School or Youth. Treat them as you would anyone else in the group.
- Send¹ (age-appropriate) books, toys, magazines, clothes, DVDs (movies or TV programmes), music CDs, etc, so they will have something in common to talk about with their Aussie peers when on Home Assignment.
- Take them out with your family one evening for pizza etc; include them in 'normal' activities.
- Encourage your children to include them (e.g. going to a movie/party/sports' activity).
- Send the child birthday cards, letters² and emails³ to let them know they are not forgotten! Help them to keep in touch with what's going on in their absence. (Proverbs 25.25)

¹ Check the reliability of the postal system of the intended country.

NOTE: Some countries charge the recipients a fee before releasing the parcel.

² Ensure the child is not in a country where direct reference to Jesus etc could get the parents into trouble with the authorities.

³ Make sure the family have an internet connection that allows them to receive attachments.



how to pray & care for the
Third Culture Kids
 children of our missionaries

What makes a TCK tick?

How to spot a TCK:

- They calculate the price of Coke in a foreign currency.
- They speak two languages, but can't spell in either.
- They see a bug and remark that it is best eaten fried.
- They ask friends to send them Vegemite for Christmas.
- They appear in out-dated pictures on your fridge.
- They fly before they can walk.
- Someone brings up the name of a team, and they get the sport wrong.
- They struggle to answer the question, "Where are you from?"
- They consider parasites, dysentery, or tropical diseases to be appropriate dinner conversation.

What is a TCK?

*A Third Culture Kid (TCK) is a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents' culture(s).**

Children of missionaries can often be classified as Third Culture Kids.

Their spiritual, personal, relational and educational needs can be very different from those of the children you know. Going into an unfamiliar culture on holiday is often exciting, especially as there is the 'safety net' of knowing it is only for two weeks. But imagine coming back after 4 years and discovering you have missed:

- the last 6 blockbuster movies
- the latest Grand Final
- 4 years of local events
- 2 major fashion changes

So, how can you pray for and care most effectively for these children who live between worlds and whom you see only every few years?

**David Pollock, co-author 'Third Culture Kids'*

Pray for their ...

Spiritual Needs

- *Salvation* - that they would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and would grow in knowledge of him.
- *Church* - meet Christian friends to encourage and be encouraged by, and would enjoy participating in whatever church they find themselves.
- *Growth* - that they will be confident in who they are in Christ and have boldness to share the Gospel with friends.

Educational Needs

- *Schooling* - parents need wisdom in knowing what schooling is best for their child (local, home, boarding, etc).
- *Facilitators* - for those charged with caring for and teaching them.
- *Friends* - fitting into their peer group and making good friends among like-minded people.
- *Adaptation* - smooth transition, both academically and socially, between the location and Home Assignment.

