

Who Writes Back

Real addresses of people and places that send mail back to children. Perfect for Mail Monday!

Replies usually take four to eight weeks. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope when you can; it makes a reply far more likely.

Disney characters

Write to Mickey, Minnie, or any character by name. Most families get back a signed photo card.

Walt Disney World Communications
P.O. Box 10040
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-0040

The White House

A letter to the President often earns a reply card with the presidential seal. Ours took about three months.

The President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

NASA astronauts

Look up a current astronaut on nasa.gov, then write to them by name. Great excuse to research a real person first.

[Astronaut's name]
Astronaut Office, Code CB
NASA Johnson Space Center
Houston, TX 77058

Smokey Bear

The Forest Service answers Smokey's mail. Pair it with a lesson on wildfire safety. Smokey Bear has his very own zip code, and doesn't need a street address.

Smokey Bear
Washington, DC 20252

Santa Claus

Mail by early December through the USPS Operation Santa address. Tuck in a stamped envelope with your own address so Santa can reply.

Santa Claus
123 Elf Road
North Pole, 88888

Crayola

Send a drawing and tell them your favorite color name. A reliable, cheerful first pen pal for little ones.

Crayola Consumer Affairs
1100 Church Lane
P.O. Box 431
Easton, PA 18044-0431

Your governor

State offices almost always answer children. Ask about your state bird, flag, or a law your child cares about.

The Honorable [name]
Governor of [state]
[State Capitol address]
Find it at usa.gov/state-governments

A national park ranger

Pick a park your family wants to visit and ask a ranger a question about it. Many mail back junior ranger material.

Park Ranger
[Park name] National Park
Mailing address at nps.gov

Before you seal it: instead of just saying "Hello!", consider writing a specific question in your letter. Also, addresses change, so do a quick search before you stick on that cute stamp!

Write to an Author

Authors receive fan mail through their publisher. Address the envelope to the author, care of the publisher below.

Dav Pilkey

Dog Man, Captain Underpants. Ask him about drawing — he answers art questions generously.

Dav Pilkey
c/o Scholastic Inc.
557 Broadway
New York, NY 10012-3999

Kate DiCamillo

Because of Winn-Dixie, The Tale of Despereaux. A wonderful one for a child who has just finished their first big novel.

Kate DiCamillo
c/o Candlewick Press
99 Dover Street
Somerville, MA 02144

Peter H. Reynolds

The Dot, Ish. Send a drawing with the letter — his whole message is about brave first marks.

Peter H. Reynolds
P.O. Box 1299
Dedham, MA 02027

Katherine Applegate

Here We Are, The Day the Crayons Quit (illustrator). Good for younger children who love the pictures most of all.

Katherine Applegate
c/o Author Mail, Floor 21
HarperCollins Children's Books
195 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Mo Willems

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, Elephant & Piggie. Be sure to draw a hidden Pigeon in your letter.

Mo Willems
c/o Hyperion Books for Children
125 West End Avenue
New York, NY 10023

Jeff Kinney

Diary of a Wimpy Kid. A favorite for reluctant readers who suddenly have a lot to say.

Jeff Kinney
c/o Abrams Books
195 Broadway, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Tuck a spare envelope inside your letter, already stamped and addressed back to your own home. It is the single best thing you can do to increase your chances of getting a reply. It's also fun to see your own handwriting when it lands back in your mailbox weeks later!

YOUR OWN PEOPLE

List people you love writing to regularly here. (Grandparents, cousins, a former teacher, a neighbor who moved, a friend from co-op, etc.) Record their addresses on the back or in your address book.

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