

# Gretchen Picklesimer Kinney

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Dear *Friend* Team,

The *Friend* magazine has always been my favorite Church magazine. When I was little, I would read the *Friend* every Sunday afternoon, and I loved doing all of the interactive activities (my favorite was always finding the hidden CTR ring, but I also enjoyed the mazes). Since that time, I haven't really grown up. I love children and all things made for them. Even today, I love the simple yet powerful language of the *Friend*. Children see the world in a unique way, and when I write for children or read children's books, my everyday world becomes something special and almost magical when I get a glimpse into theirs.

When I was serving as a missionary in the France Paris Mission, parents in the wards I served in often asked the missionaries to teach their children the missionary lessons in the weeks leading up to their baptisms. These were some of my favorite member lessons to plan for because I was able to reimagine basic gospel principles into creative activities for kids. One time, after we taught a little boy about tithing, I promised him that if he kept our challenge, I would give him an American dime that I brought from home. It made me so happy to see how excited that made him.

As a member of the *Friend* team, I would create fun and engaging children's content that gets children excited about the gospel and brings them closer to Christ. I hope to inspire children just as the *Friend* has inspired me. I am excited to meet with you to learn more about the *Friend* team and share how I could contribute.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Gretchen Picklesimer Kinney