



Mentoring Program

Mission & Overview

Madison Baseball's Big Tiger, Little Tiger Mentoring Program strives to build and foster positive relationships between younger and older players.

Big Tigers include Senior Legion (19U), Junior Legion (17U), and 14U players. Little Tigers are 9U-13U players.

Parents play an important role in the Big Tiger, Little Tiger Mentoring Program, helping to set parameters for communication and engagement.

More
Inside!



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Ways to Connect: Ideas for Big Tigers

1. Take them along on workouts or walks.
2. Go to one of their important events such as a concert, athletic event, or a performance they're giving.
3. Go out to lunch together. Talk about your mentees' families and friends, your family, events in your lives, movies, music, etc.
4. Play board games, cards, darts, or pool with your mentees.
5. Tell them about something you're reading, what you like about it, and what you don't.
6. Go to a movie together.
7. Go fishing.
8. Build something together.
9. Teach them about your favorite hobby and learn about theirs.
10. Have a catch together.
11. Get together with a few other mentors and mentees: have a street hockey game.
12. Find out when their birthdays are, and send birthday cards. Enclose a homemade coupon for a lunch get-together.
13. Ask your mentees to make all the plans for your next get-together.
14. Ask them to show you something interesting on their computers. Express interest in their favorite game, their bookmarks on the Web, a document or graphic they created.
15. Encourage your mentees to try something new—food, a sport, or hobby. Jointly plan a “reward” if they pull it off.
16. Ask them to teach you something. If it's difficult for you, admit it.
17. Teach your mentees how to make one of your “secret family recipes.”
18. Ask them about their favorite teacher or coach.
19. Do volunteer work together.
20. Plant a “salsa garden” together: tomatoes, peppers, cilantro. Enjoy fresh mid-summer salsa and chips!
21. Fly a kite.
22. Talk to your mentees about their friendships, what they look for and want in a good friend.

Adapted Source:

<http://www.millersville.edu/mmap/files/Curriculum/100%20Ideas%20to%20Use%20when%20Mentoring%20Youth.pdf>

Communication is Key

Communication through a text can be tricky.

- Communication studies show that our words account for only 8% of what we communicate. The balance of "what we say" is made up of the tones and inflections of our voice (54%); and our gestures, expressions, and other body language (38%)
- If you are communicating through text or email, every word you type must be chosen with care, and designed with positive impact in mind. Keep a constant awareness of the potential negative impact or possible misunderstandings that the wrong word or phrasing can generate.

Communicating with your Little Tiger:

- **Discussion**
It will be helpful to have a history of correspondence with your mentee, so that you can both look back on your exchanges, and explore the 'themes' that you covered. Keep a journal/record.
- **E-mail**
You may wish to e-mail your mentee from time to time.
- **Telephone/Text**
Its up to each mentor /mentee pair to decide whether to talk on the telephone or text during the week and to what extent communication takes place in this form.
- **Face-to-Face**
It is up to the pairs to decide whether they wish to meet each week or every other week.



Encouraging Words

- *You really handled that situation well.*
- *I like what I see in your friendship with _____. What makes him/her such a good friend?*
- *Did you see how well _____ did in that game?*
- *You should see how great _____ is at _____*
- *What you said to your brother was really nice.*
- *The way you hugged your mom must have made her feel good.*
- *I can see that you're a really great teammate in the dugout: you always have positive and encouraging things to say to the guys at bat and on the field.*

Source: Guidelines for Mentors. Adapted from A Handbook for Mentors by HP employee/mentor Bill Wea
<http://www.mentor.mmu.ac.uk/mentorg>