



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters®**

OF EAST CENTRAL OHIO

Mentors CB Orientation

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio

**1260 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 100D
PO Box 6099
New Philadelphia, OH 44663**

**330-339-6916
or
888-364-5965**

Serving Tuscarawas & Carroll Counties



About Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters has changing the lives of children by matching them with volunteers in fun and rewarding relationships since 1904.

Friendship is a powerful thing. Experiencing fun activities together and forming a trusting bond with a mentor can have a powerful and positive impact on a child.

OUR Vision

All youth achieve their full potential.

OUR Mission

Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

OUR Outcomes

We partner with parents/guardians, volunteers and others in the community to help children with:

- Higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships
- Avoidance of risky behaviors
- Educational success

Criteria for Mentors

- Ability to commit to a match for 18 months
- At least 18 years of age
- Willing to meet a face-to-face with Little at least two times per month or an equivalent of 4 hours per month.
- Must be willing to make at least a 18-month commitment
- Complete required training
- Must Submit a background check
- Maintain regular contact with BBBS Staff for Match support
- Must have a valid driver's license and state required minimum automobile liability insurance, insurance information, insurance policy number, and submit to a motor vehicle record check.

Criteria for Littles

- Child is 7-18 (matches do not begin after age 15)
- Live in Carroll or Tuscarawas counties
- Willing to meet a face-to-face with Volunteer at least two times per month or an equivalent of 4 hours per month.
- Parent/Guardian must be willing to build and maintain a relationship with the volunteer in the best interest of the child
- Child and parents/Guardian must be willing to make an 18-month commitment
- Must complete required training
- Child and parent/guardian must be able and willing to maintain regular match support contact with the match support coordinator
- Child cannot require physical restraint for behavioral issues
- Child cannot require assistance with restrooming
- Child cannot be violent
- Child cannot be uncomfortable spending time away from the parent/guardian
- There may be no unresolved cases concerning custody or the child

Big Brothers Big Sisters reserves the right to reject a Little for any reason that the association, in its sole judgment, determines will or may affect either the best interests of a Little or Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio. Furthermore, Big Brothers Big Sisters reserves the right to withhold the reason(s) for such refusal. If your child is rejected our agency will attempt to connect you and your child with resources that are more beneficial.

How do Children come into the program?

Most children in our community-based programs come to us through their parent or guardian. All children and their parents must want to be in our program.

Your Role

The success of the match depends greatly on the efforts of the Big, the Little, and the Parent/Guardian. Each one plays an important role in helping build a meaningful friendship. Each mentor commits to being in a match for 18 months.

What is a "Big"?

- Emphasize friendship over changing the behavior of the child.
- Are not authoritarian.
- Decide activities together with Littles.
- Are consistent & dependable.
- Have realistic expectations.
- Are patient.
- Focus on having fun.
- Set boundaries and limits.
- Acknowledge that positive impact on the child comes after the relationship is built.
- Put a child's safety and well-being first.
- Does not make judgments on the value systems of the child or their family.

What a "Big" Is Not

- Parent
- Family
- Financial support
- "Taxi" service.
- Babysitter
- Disciplinarian
- Therapist

What Will You Do? - Expectations

We all had someone in our lives, other than a parent/guardian, who made a difference to us. This is what you can do for a child in our program. It's really pretty simple—it's a matter of making yourself available on a consistent basis. It's showing you care. It's having fun with a child. It's listening to them talk about whatever is going on in their lives. It's a series of small, teachable moments that, in the end, make a difference.

To make the most of your relationship:

- **Be a good friend:**
 - Listen, have fun, take time to get to know this new person in your life. Choose activities that you both enjoy and that will strengthen the bond between you. You are financially responsible for your Little when you are doing activities. We advise that you choose low cost, no-cost activities.
 - Don't set out to impose mandatory changes in the Little. Your relationship will grow once your Little trusts you and your Little grows in being more secure, not by your declaring mandatory new behaviors that the Little has to do.

- **Be Consistent:**
 - Show the child you think your time together is important by being on time and being dependable.
 - Volunteers need to commit to mentoring the same child for at least 18 months and to see that child at least two times a month. Additional contact, either in person or by phone, is encouraged.

- **Be involved and participate in agency activities:**
 - This connects you with other Bigs & Littles and allows your Little to interact with other kids in the program.

- **Regularly communicate with your Little, the parents and your Match Support Coordinator:**
 - We will contact you each month to provide assistance and give feedback.
 - Anytime you are unsure about what to do or how to handle a situation, your Match Support Coordinator is here to help.

- **Be patient. Work for a long-lasting relationship.**

- **Realize that problems may come up:**
 - It's normal for problems to arise in a match relationship
 - Try to balance your expectations of what it will be like with your Little and be realistic about how fast the relationship will take to develop.

How to Get Involved – Enrollment

- BBBS will gather information to learn more about you.
 - **Interview**
 - **References**
 - **Criminal history record check**
 - **Information from another BBBS agency or other service organization where you may have volunteered previously**

- **If agreeable to all parties, you will be matched with a child.**
 - An Enrollment Coordinator will call you to talk to about the child we have chosen for you. You can decide after learning a little bit about the child if you would like to meet them.
 - If you would like to meet the child, we will then call the parent to give them information about you.
 - Once everyone has agreed to meet, a Match Support Coordinator will call to schedule a time for you all to get together. This is called a Match Introduction.
 - At the Match Introduction, the Match Support Coordinator will meet you, the child, and the parent. You could then go on your first outing which could last for about an hour.