



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters.®**

OF EAST CENTRAL OHIO

Mentors SB Orientation

Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio

Serving youth in Tuscarawas, Carroll, & Harrison Counties

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About BBBS

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

What is School Based Mentoring?

Bigs and Littles can meet at **school** or another **site** typically on the same day & at the same time each week.

The participating school has provided a space for the child and mentor to meet. The mentor will spend 45 minutes once a week supporting his/her Little in a variety of ways. During these weekly meetings, you might work on homework, eat lunch together, play board games, participate in an arts & crafts project, or simply hang out together.

These supervised meetings usually take place during the school day or after school. The match is supplied with grade-appropriate activities. In addition, students are always encouraged to bring their homework and/or classwork to the weekly sessions.

Criteria for Mentors

- At least 14 years of age, or a Freshman for high school
- Willing to meet a face-to-face with Little once a week during the school year
- Must be willing to make at least a school-year commitment
- Complete required training
- Must Submit a background check (if over 17 years old)
- Maintain regular contact with BBBS Staff for Match support

Criteria for Littles

- Child is grades K-8 (matches do not begin after grade 8)
- Live in Carroll or Tuscarawas counties
- Willing to meet a face-to-face with Volunteer once a week during the school year
- Child and Parent/Guardian must be willing to make a 2-year 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. Most children in our school-based programs come to us through a teacher or

counselor. We also reach out to involve children through churches, youth service agencies, and other referrals. All children and their parents must want to be in our program.

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.
- **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 an entire school year.
- **Regularly communicate with your Match Support Coordinator:**
 - 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

How to Get Involved – Enrollment

- BBBS will gather information to learn more about you.
 - **Application**
 - **Interview**
 - **References**
 - **Criminal history record check (For Bigs over 18)**
 - **Information from another BBBS agency or other service organization where you may have volunteered previously**

