

Having Fun Together

How do mentors and mentees spend fun time together? Here are just a few ideas to get you started. Let your mentee play a deciding role in the activity chosen. Bring other great ideas that you come up with to mentor meetings to share with the class.

- Play games. Many are available in the activity room (behind the cafeteria), or bring one of your own.
- Take turns teaching each other a new game.
- Play catch. Get a ball from gym or bring one of your own.
- Hang out and talk
- Research each of your interests on the internet
- Listen to music each of you enjoys (choose appropriate lyrics)
- Shoot some hoops.
- Read a book together. Select one from the Talmadge library or find one that looks interesting and you can check it out of the Independence, Monmouth, or WOU library (WOU has a children's/adolescent section on the 2nd floor).
- Read a magazine, newspaper, or comics together (if necessary pick something that would be understandable with a basic reading level, you don't want to frustrate your mentee). Write a story together
- Create artwork together
- Have a picnic. Take snacks outside on nice days
- Fly a kite.
- Talk about your first job.
- Talk about your classes and what college is like.
- Talk about the future and what you both want to do when you "grow up"
- Research and talk about famous people who used their abilities to get ahead
- Make greeting, get well, holiday, or thank you cards to give to other people
- If your mentee has trouble sitting still, be sure to allow for time to work off energy (running around the gym or the track).
- Bring in a proverb a week to discuss
- Play a musical instrument or learn one together.
- Teach each other a craft or favorite hobby.
- Color
- Bring in a photo album from home or just a few pictures to show your mentee. They love seeing you as a middle schooler.
- Eat lunch together.

Ideas come from

Ference, R. A., Rhodes, W. H. (2002). Preservice teachers are making a difference by mentoring middle school students. *Middle School Journal*, 41-46.

Styles, M., & Morrow, K. (1995). Building relationships with youth in program settings: A study of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Philadelphia: Public/Private Ventures.