

Mentoring Ideas for Elementary

- Play board games, cards, darts, or pool with your mentees. Observe how they deal with winning and losing.
- Ask to read a report or story they've recently written or a drawing they've done. Make positive comments, mention at least one thing you learned from it, and ask questions related to the material.
- Refuse all calls and other interruptions (except emergencies) during your mentoring get-togethers. Point out that the time you spend with them is too important to be interrupted
- Ask about a book they're reading. "Is this book for school or pleasure reading?" . . . "Why did you choose it?" . . . "Would you recommend it?" . . . "What's your favorite book?"
- Tell them about something you're reading, what you like about it, and what you don't.
- Read a good book together. Take a trip to the school library, and pick out one to share. Maybe read every other chapter out loud to each other.
- Ask your mentees to make all the plans for your next get-together.
- Look at a world map together and discuss future places they might go. Help them see the world is full of opportunities. Tell them about the places you've been or hope you'll still see.
- Encourage your mentees to try something new—food, a sport, or hobby.
- Ask them to teach you something. If it's difficult for you, admit it.
- Write specific, personalized praises on something tangible to keep.
- Talk about money and budgeting. Show how you meet your financial obligations. Be open and available to talk through the choices you make with your money.
- Share a verse, quote or saying that's meaningful to you. Write it down on a card for them to keep.
- Ask them about their favorite cartoons; look and laugh at them together. Show your favorites.
- Observe how your mentees relate to you. Think about comments you could make to them and how you could help them with their people skills.
- Have them look into a mirror and say two things they like about themselves. Have them look into a mirror while you tell them four things you like about them. Be sure to include character qualities, not just looks.
- Ask them about their favorite teacher or coach.
- Tell your "growing-up" story including successes and failures
- Let them know what you're thinking, feeling, and observing about a particular situation or challenge you're facing.
- If your school allows it-Ask your mentees to bring something to your next meeting that's meaningful to them—a picture, award, letter, souvenir. Let them tell you about it.
- If your mentees play a musical instrument, ask them to prepare a piece for you and make a "big deal" when they perform it for you.
- Build a model—airplane, car, 3-D puzzle, boat—together.
- Help mentees with their homework.
- Develop a list of questions and prompts for discussions with your mentees. End a meeting by saying: "Next time we get together, I'd like you to answer the following question . . ."
- Ask mentees to give you specific feedback—positive and corrective—on something you wrote or on an action you took. If you're brave, ask for feedback on your hair and clothes
- Talk to your mentees about their friendships, what they look for and want in a good friend.
- Ask your mentees about their pets, past and present. Tell them about the pets you've had.
- Come up with some "What If . . . ?" questions for discussion at one of your sessions. What if you saw someone steal something at the store? Your friends offered you drugs? A classmate wanted to cheat off your paper?