

Mentoring

PARTNERSHIP OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Finding a Mentor for Your Child

Deciding whether or not you want a mentor for your child can be a complex process. Most parents have questions about what is involved and what your role will be.

Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people (mentees) together with caring individuals (mentors) who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee.

A mentor is an adult who, along with parents, provides a young person with support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement and constructive example. Mentors are good listeners, people who care, people who want to help young people bring out strengths that are already there.

Mentors can provide opportunities for developing new skills and create experiences that will help your child grow and find success at home, school and in the community.

A mentor is focused on developing a positive relationship with your child by spending time with them. Their role is not to serve as another parent, but is instead to become a role model – a caring and responsible adult who supports the healthy development of your child. Within the Mentoring Partnership of Central PA (MPCP), you will find a diverse group of mentors with various backgrounds, skills and interests. Each person is volunteering their time and has been carefully screened, selected, and trained to mentor a child.

When a mentor is matched with your child, your role in that relationship is important to its overall success. Parents and guardians must be involved. Make sure your child is meeting with their mentor during the designated times, keep the lines of communication open – both with your child, their mentor and the program coordinators. Early communication between all parties about values, rules, time limitations, or other concerns will help provide a base for success.

Mentoring can take many forms:

- Traditional Mentoring – one adult with one young person
- Group Mentoring – one adult with up to four young people
- Team Mentoring – several adults working with small groups of young people, in which the adult-to-youth ratio is not greater than 1:4
- Peer Mentoring – caring youth mentoring other youth

The MPCP's partner organizations offer youth mentoring in the following categories:

- Academic – focusing on school success
- Friendship – focusing on relationship building
- Leadership development – focusing on character
- Interest-based/skill-based – focusing on a specific skill or interest
- Career development – focusing on job skill development

For more information, visit www.mentoringcentralpa.com

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