

## *Community-Based Mentoring Ground Rules*

1. A Match Support Specialist will be assigned to each match. The Match Support Specialist will be in touch with all parties on a monthly basis to monitor the progress of the match and administer surveys. The Big, parent/guardian and Little MUST stay in touch with their Match Support Specialist and notify their Match Support Specialist of any issues with the match or changes in contact information.
2. The Big and Little commit to meeting a minimum of 4 hours in 2-4 outings per month for a minimum of 12 months. Any concerns regarding this commitment must be discussed with their Match Support Specialist as soon as the concerns arise.
3. If all parties agree to continue the match beyond the twelve-month commitment, Big Brothers Big Sisters will support the match until the Little turns 21 years old. If any party is considering closure, it is that person's responsibility to inform their Match Support Specialist. No party should just stop communication.
4. The Big will directly speak with the Little's parent/guardian when the Little is picked up and will inform the parent/guardian where they will be going and when they will return. The parent/guardian, or a pre-arranged responsible adult, will be home when the Little returns from an outing with the Big.
5. The first 3-6 months of the match relationship will only be one-to-one outings in the community. After 3 months, the Big can request approval from their Match Support Specialist and the Little's parent/guardian to do an outing at the Big's home or to introduce the Little to a friend or family member. At that time, the Match Support Specialist will review future guidelines for having others on outings or doing activities at the Big's home.
6. The Big cannot take other friends and family members of the Little on outings. The only exception is to allow a sibling of the Little who is enrolled in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands community-based mentoring program to attend an agency activity supervised by Big Brothers Big Sisters staff.
7. The Big is expected to comply with all local, state and federal laws. There is to be no alcohol, drug or tobacco use before meeting or in the presence of the Little.
8. The Big and Little will wear seat belts whenever in a motor vehicle. Littles under the age of 12 must ride in the back seat. Littles up to the age of eight must ride secured in a booster seat provided by the Little's family. The Big will refrain from using a cell phone to make or receive calls, send or receive text messages and will follow all traffic rules and laws while operating a motor vehicle.
9. The Big and Little will respect personal space and avoid inappropriate physical contact (examples include: tickling, wrestling, sitting on laps, backrubs, etc.).
10. Overnight stays are prohibited. No exceptions.
11. A High-Risk Activity Form, signed by the Big and the Little's parent/guardian, must be submitted to Big Brothers Big Sisters prior to the match participating in the high-risk activity.
12. The Big and Little will share the cost of all activities.
13. Gifts are not encouraged, but if the Big would like to give a gift to the Little, the Big must discuss it with their Match Support Specialist and the Little's parent/guardian prior to purchasing or giving the gift.
14. The Big does not become involved in the discipline of the Little. The Big is a mentor, not a parent/guardian.
15. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands discourages the parent/guardian from keeping the Little from visits with their Big as a means of discipline.
16. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands reserves the right to suspend or close any match at any time.