

# start something™

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio

Think of the possibilities. **What will you start?**



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### Inside This Issue

Month of Mentoring	2
Our Wish List	2
Match Anniversaries	2
Mentor Responsibilities	2
5-7 Year Olds	3
Overnight Policy	3
Mustang Raffle	4
Wait List Activity	4



#### United Way of Greater Toledo

[www.unitedwaytoledo.org](http://www.unitedwaytoledo.org)  
Lucas 419-248-2424  
Wood 419-352-2390

#### United Way of Fulton Co.

[www.unitedwayfultoncountyoh.org](http://www.unitedwayfultoncountyoh.org)  
419-337-9606

#### United Way of Williams Co.

[www.unitedwaywc.org](http://www.unitedwaywc.org)  
419-636-8603

## Ways to Improve Social Know How

As children start to go back to school, it may also be a good time for you to start working with your child on their social competence: attitude about school, school performance, and their use of school and community resources. Here are a few ideas about how to improve social competence in your son/daughter or Little Brother/Little Sister.

What are ways you can improve your child's attitude about school?

- Introduce yourself to the school and the teachers so they are aware that your child has your support
- Attend school activities or eat lunch at school with your child
- Provide support and encouragement to show how education is important
- Stay connected with teachers and the school

How do you improve your child's performance in school?

- Affirm and recognize success in school, start small if you have to teach basic study skills to youth who may not have developed them (use their teachers or the library for help if you need advice)
- Stay in contact with teachers about your child's progress
- Play scrabble or word games, make and use flashcards
- Help your child learn the alphabet, tell time, use a calculator, etc.
- Talk about school with your child, ask them what they learned or what was their favorite part of the day. It will show that you value an education
- Incorporate learning anywhere you go: animals at the zoo, reading and understanding street signs, figuring the cost of something on sale

How do you teach your child to use school and community resources?

- Go to the library, get a library card, learn how to find books and read together
- Visit a museum and learn something new together: the stars, dinosaurs, cars, etc.
- Do fun activities that reinforce career choices. Your child wants to be a veterinarian? Visit a shelter and offer to walk and feed the animals or job shadow at a veterinarian's office.
- Encourage the use of school guidance counselors and tutors
- Do a service activity together

Lifelong learning can be fun, once your child learns this; they will have learned a valuable lesson that will take them far in life!

**Our Mission:** To provide quality mentoring relationships between children and qualified adults in Northwestern Ohio and promote children's development into competent, confident and caring individuals.

## A Month of Mentoring

Need ideas on what to do with your Little? Here are a few suggestions...

1. Visit an apple orchard, pick apples and drink cider
2. Have a bonfire and roast marshmallows
3. Take a hike to see the fall colors
4. Pass out candy on Halloween
5. Make your own Halloween costumes and go trick or treating
6. Do homework together

## Match Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following matches with anniversaries in October!

Little Cassidy/Big Marlene	8 years
Little Dywuan/Big John	5 years
Little Trevor/Big Brandon	3 years
Little Isaiah/Big Wayne	2 years
Little Dru/Big Matthew	2 years
Little Lexi/Big Ashley	2 years
Little Dyllan/Big Katie	2 years
Little Takela/Big Heather	1 year
Little Andre' /Big Robert	1 year
Little Sierra/Big Garielle	1 year
Little N'Yala/Big Elicia	1 year
Little Rylie/Big Cynthia	1 year
Little Kyle/Big Sangchai	1 year
Little Heather/Big Tessa	1 year
Little Marie/Big Margaret	1 year
Little Austin/Big Chris	1 year

Did we miss your match anniversary? Please give us a call and let us know.

Thank you to the Bigs for making a difference in a child's life! And thank you to the Littles because you may not know it, but you are also making a difference in your Bigs' lives as well.

## Our Wish List

- Games and sports equipment for the Site-Based Mentoring Program
- New computers
- A Television/DVD Player Combo
- 3 flat screen computer monitors

If you have any of the things on our wish list and are interested in donating, please give us a call!

Little Brothers and Little Sisters skipped half as many days of school as did their peers.

Source: Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

## Mentor Responsibilities

Bigs can have a strong bond with their Littles being consistent and following a few simple rules. By agreeing to a match with a child, our mentors agree to...

1. Spend time with my Little approximately once a week, understanding that this may vary.
2. Establish goals with the case manager and work towards meeting the goals.
3. Be on time and call my Little if plans need to change.
4. Encourage my Little to share in making decisions about our activities.
5. Set realistic expectations/limits for my Little.
6. Maintain regular contact (at least once a month) with my case manager.
7. Observe all safety regulations (using seatbelts, obeying speed limits, never consuming alcohol prior to or during outings, etc.)
8. Maintain at least the minimum level of automobile insurance required by the program and make BBBS know of any changes.
9. Maintain contact with parent/guardian, advising them of all activities.
10. Keep information about my Little confidential and inform case manager if issues of concern or safety arise.
11. Be responsible for my Little while together and never leave my Little alone with another adult who has not been screened by BBBS.
12. Participate in annual match reviews with the case manager, Little and parent.

## General Characteristics of 5-7 year olds

Children of a certain age group generally display similar characteristics. 5-7 year olds are generally eager to learn but because they are easily fatigued, have short attention spans.

Most 5-7 year olds are very active and like to do activities that are fun and involve using their energy. 5-7 year olds are still growing and activities that involve small muscle coordination can be difficult. Because of their activity levels and lack of coordination, they could be accident prone. 5-7 year olds love organized games and their competitiveness can lead them to cheat. They can be very imaginative and enjoy fantasy play. Children in this age range learn best through active participation.

Most 5-7 year olds are aware of others feelings but don't yet connect how their actions affect others. They love praise and their feelings are easily hurt. 5-7 year olds often regress when they are tired and are less mature at home. 5-7 year olds are eager to learn, love to talk and can have difficulty making decisions.

If your child or Little doesn't fit all the descriptions above, it is okay. All children are unique and different and grow and develop at their own pace.

Suggested match activities for 5-7 year olds\*:

1. Make and frost cut out cookies
2. Fly a kite on a windy day
3. Collect interesting things while on a walk
4. Feed ducks at the park
5. Make a present for someone special
6. Play cards: Uno, Old Maid, etc.
7. Play bat mitten or croquet
8. Find interesting places to practice "balancing" while on a walk
9. Have a peanut butter and jelly picnic
10. Visit a pet store and decide which is the strangest pet

Little Brothers and Little Sisters  
felt more competent about  
doings schoolwork.

Source: BBBSA

\*Children of other ages will enjoy these activities as well and not all 5-7 year olds will enjoy this entire list. Talk to your child or Little and use the list as a starting point for planning activities. For more activity suggestions, contact your match support specialist.

## Overnight Visitation Policy

It is Big Brothers Big Sisters policy that all new matches must wait at least 6 months before having an overnight visit together. Additionally Big Brothers Big Sisters of NWOHio must be notified at least 24 hours prior to the visit taking place. A Case Manager will follow up with the match after the overnight has occurred. This policy is in place for the safety of the Little and to protect the Big. All matches sign the overnight visitation policy at the initial match meeting.



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# Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Northwestern Ohio

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Raffle

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NWOHio is raffling a **2012 Ford Mustang**. Proceeds will support the 350 children currently matched with a mentor and will help recruit and enroll mentors for more than 150 children on the waiting list. **Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20.** The drawing will be held on Friday, December 16, 2011. For more information, please contact Alicia Russell at 419-243-4600 ext. 14 or [arussell@bbbsnwo.org](mailto:arussell@bbbsnwo.org)

We will have the car at many of the local events. If you don't see us out and about come and see the car at **Kristler Ford** on the Central Avenue strip!



Barbie J. Harrison  
President/CEO

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### Wood/Ottawa County Office

1616 E Wooster St  
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Phone: 419-354-2113  
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## Ice Skating Activity



Join us on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at the Bowling Green State University Ice Arena, 417 Mercer Road, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402. The event will take place from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Matches will receive a buy one get one free skate rental coupon. Skate rentals are \$3. Of course,

if you have ice skates you are welcome to bring your own. Activities and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP by November 2, 2011 to Cara at 419-354-2113 or [bbbsnwo@wcnnet.org](mailto:bbbsnwo@wcnnet.org).

## Local Community Activities

Visit these websites for a list of upcoming community events:

Lucas & Wood Counties  
[www.toledo.com](http://www.toledo.com)

Fulton & Williams Counties  
[www.northwestohioevents.net](http://www.northwestohioevents.net)

Ottawa County  
<http://lake-erie.com/visitors/calendar>

Little Brothers and Little Sisters skipped fewer classes than did their peers.

Source: BBBSA

Want to Help?  
Donate or  
Volunteer Today at  
[www.bbbsnwo.org](http://www.bbbsnwo.org)

