

School-Based Mentoring Programs



Big Brothers Big Sisters has been helping elementary-aged children through school-based mentoring programs for over 13 years

Now, children on Salt Spring Island can participate in the mentoring experience



An assessed and trained volunteer mentor meets with a child for one hour each week — one-to-one, on school grounds, and during school-time hours.

The mentor's job is to build the child's confidence and self esteem, to encourage positive risk-taking and problem-solving, and to engage in activities that help the child cope with and overcome behavioural, learning, or socialization challenges. We build friendships between children and adult mentors that are based on trust, healthy boundaries, consistency, and fun.

Teachers, counselors, or principal can refer students to the program, then the Big Brothers Big Sisters staff person on SSI creates the mentoring matches and follows through with support and structured match monitoring to ensure that mentoring matches are healthy, functioning well, and fulfilling the expectations of the student, the mentor, and the school.

Each school designates space for students to meet with their mentors and selects times that will work for the school. Mentors and students can choose from a variety of activities and be inside or outside while remaining on school property. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides supplies that can be used for the program including board games, sports equipment, arts and crafts materials, building sets, books, etc.

Longitudinal studies show that children enrolled in school-based mentoring programs respond positively:

- 91% feel better about themselves
- 80% have a better school attendance record
- 82% develop better relationships with their teacher
- 65% have improved self-confidence
- 67% have a better sense of right and wrong
- 76% show improved school grades
- 90% get along better with other children



Learn More at:
www.bbbsvictoria.com
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Teachers tell us:
"I couldn't believe the changes I saw in my student... the one-to-one time with his mentor saw him coming back to the class ready to cooperate, listen and contribute in ways I had not seen before. He would count down the days until his mentor came again."

Students tell us: "My mentor is just for me, when we hang out I feel like the most important person in the world."

Mentors tell us: "I decided to mentor to give back and be involved but I never expected how honored I would feel to be a part of a young person's life and see her grow and change. I am looking forward to returning next year."