



NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CHALLENGE COALITION COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSET INITIATIVE



Asset Building Ideas for Mentors

Mentoring relationships can be found in all different walks of life among people of many different ages and at many different stages of life. Working adults sometimes have a more experienced co-worker or supervisor who serves as an advisor or teacher. Young children often have an older sibling, tutor, or friend who acts as a trusted guide and confidant. Many teenagers learn from and are supported by a youth worker, teacher, religious leader, or coach. All of these relationships can be called “mentoring” and all of them have the potential to build assets. While asset building is likely to happen naturally when a mentoring relationship develops, there are some things you can do to ensure that your mentoring relationship is an asset-building one:

- ❖ Remember that the focus of mentoring is on forming a relationship and being a positive adult role model. What you do matters less than the fact that you are spending time together and providing the person you mentor with support and care.
- ❖ If you are part of a formal mentoring program, understand and honor the boundaries set by the program.
- ❖ Promote and support clear boundaries, positive values, high expectations, and healthy lifestyles for all children and youth. Have clear boundaries and expectations for what is appropriate and not appropriate in your relationship.
- ❖ Show your mentee that he or she is a priority by keeping in touch or getting together on a regular basis. Even if you cannot be together very often, text, talk on the phone, or send e-mail.
- ❖ Let your mentee know that you care about things that are important to her or him.
- ❖ Be flexible. If your mentee has ideas about things to do or ways to do them, let her or him take the lead.
- ❖ Meet and get to know your mentee's family. Once you know them, they will likely have more trust in you and you will have a better understanding of your mentee's life experiences.
- ❖ Get to know your mentee's interests and hobbies. Help him or her find opportunities to get involved with organized activities or programs that use or develop those interests and hobbies. Share a new experience/activity together.
- ❖ Talk about and model your positive personal values. Encourage your mentee to think about the values that are important to her or him and how those values impact behavior and decisions.
- ❖ Emphasize the importance of a lifelong commitment to learning. Go to the library together and check out books to read together. Also look for books on tape that you can listen to together. Help your mentee with homework or find someone who can.
- ❖ Ask about your mentee's vision for the future. Work with mentee to develop goals, a sense of purpose, and a positive view for his/her future.
- ❖ Enjoy your time together and have fun!

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