



Mentoring Ideas

Below are some tips and strategies for mentoring sessions. Make sure activities are suited to the age and maturity level of your mentee before trying them and that they are approved by the school and/or district. Also, be creative. This list is just a springboard to help you think of good activities. Finally, do not be too structured, but always have a plan! Spontaneity is an important part of any mentoring relationship.

1. Start by telling your mentee why you decided to become a mentor. Tell about yourself with pictures if possible. Kids are very visual these days.
2. Play games—board games such as chess, checkers, and Monopoly or Sudoku and crossword puzzles. Allow the mentee to decide on games to play together.
3. Select books you like and read them together. Get to an exciting part and finish it the next time you are together.
4. Pick a book and decide how many chapters/pages you will read a week. Discuss what you read at each visit. Ask mentee what he/she is currently reading and read it together.
5. Review previous tests and homework.
6. Do research on the Internet on a topic the mentee is interested in.
7. Learn effective study habits and time management skills.
8. Exchange favorite recipes.
9. Build something together (model car, LEGOS)
10. Construct a kite together and fly it.
11. Create a holiday, get-well, or greeting card for a special occasion.
12. Discuss opportunities for post-secondary education. Research two- and four-year colleges, technical schools, and the meaning of financial aid. What does it take to get into college? What high school courses should be taken? It is never too early to begin planning.
13. Start a pen pal project with a group of young people in another country.
14. Listen to popular music.
15. Talk about your first job.
16. Investigate careers.
17. Write a resume. Write to a college of the student's choice requesting information.
18. Have a pretend job interview.
19. Figure out how to program an electronic item.
20. Create a design and carve a pumpkin on Halloween.
21. Plan for a sound financial future. Discuss opening savings and checking accounts and managing credit cards.
22. Talk about friends—those that the mentee would like to have and those he/she does have.



Mentoring Ideas cont'd.

23. Decorate T-shirts and wear your creations proudly. Let him/her decorate one for you to wear! (note: Pearland ISD students do have standardized dress code.)
24. Play sports, shoot basketball in the school gym. Check with school for availability first.
25. Connect with the community. Research what after-school programs are offered in the community in which your mentee might engage.
26. Research the history of music, and write a biography of a favorite musician or instrument.
27. Walk outside on a nice day, sit outside and just talk. Always inform the school where you will be with the mentee.
28. Research ways that you both can be more environmentally- friendly in your daily lives. Start a campaign to educate the school.
29. Discuss travel and dream vacations. Make a budget and discuss how much it would cost to take such a vacation and ways to save for it.
30. Usher at the school play or musical concert. Or just simply show up to watch him/her perform.
31. Help with homework. Make sure that the mentee takes the lead in making this decision.
32. Discuss people you admire. Compare heroes and research your favorites.
33. Ask your mentee—if you could go back to middle school/elementary school what would you do differently?
34. Swap photos of mentees and mentors.
35. Bring pictures of each other's families and discuss similarities and differences.
36. Play hangman.
37. Practice how to get the point across.
38. Design and paint a mural on the wall of the school (with permission, of course!).
39. Discover ways to make spelling fun. Have a new word of the week that you explore together. You can acquire the students' weekly spelling list and play games to study.
40. Have the mentee help you solve a problem (e.g., doing something on your phone)
41. Share your life experiences.
42. Keep a journal.
43. Practice the answers to questions for the driver's license test.
44. Work on a community service project.
45. Complete a personality inventory.
46. Help your mentee design a personal business or calling card.
47. Help your mentee craft a personal mission statement.
48. Help your mentee learn about the Covey Seven Habits for Highly Effective Teens.
49. Help your mentee organize his/her binder or locker and develop a calendar system.
50. Do an arts and crafts project (if your mentee enjoys arts and crafts).
51. Make something out of modeling clay.



Mentoring Ideas cont'd.

52. Make a scrapbook of the year together.
53. Research the history of the school.
54. Write a book review.
55. Make a collage or Dream Board out of cutouts from a magazine.
56. Teach a lesson about etiquette, such as how to arrange silverware for a place setting or how to make proper introductions.
57. Create a new board or card game.
58. Explore your college website and teach your student about your job.
59. Take an imaginary trip around the world and study about each place you might visit.
60. Invent something!
61. Do a fun science experiment. (Must get approval first).
62. Grow a plant together.
63. Make a family tree. Be sensitive to students from broken families. Discuss with campus mentor facilitator.
64. Write poems or rap songs together.
65. Read the newspaper and magazines together.
66. Invite a guest from a local labor market office to discuss market requirements and the fastest growing jobs today.
67. Share your dreams.
68. Discuss current events and news.
69. Plan a random act of kindness (such as putting chocolate kisses in every teacher's box).
70. Ask your mentee where he/she hopes to be in five years? In ten?
71. Teach the alphabet, words, and phrases of a foreign language.
72. Build and launch a rocket. Do not forget to take pictures.
73. Discuss personal hygiene, health, and exercise. Make a nutrition plan together.
74. Teach how to give a good handshake. Practice makes perfect!
75. Discuss safety, such as wearing helmets when riding bikes and fire safety in the home.
76. Write and illustrate an original book together.
77. Discuss your favorite apps/websites.
78. Explore what to do in an emergency. Create a contact list and discuss 911 procedures.
79. Write an editorial and send it to the school paper or a local publication.
80. Make summer plans like finding a summer job.
81. Send your mentee a card on his /her birthday.
82. Teach how to ask a boss for a raise.
84. Write thank-you notes.
85. Make an "activities jar" to pull from each meeting. Both you and your mentee can decide on things to write on paper to place in the jar.