



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Fayette County
P.O. Box 520
Connersville, IN 47331-0520

CHILD ELIBIBILITY SERVICE POLICY

The following guidelines will be used to determine eligibility of children to be admitted into the program. Several of these guidelines may be discretionary. However, they will be utilized to establish baseline criteria of acceptance.

Eligibility:

Vitals: Children ages 6-16 from a household in need of adult friendship for the child are eligible for referral. Applications shall not be accepted until they have reached their 6th birthday. Children must live within the Fayette County area. They must have the capacity and willingness to relate to a volunteer. Once a child is matched, they may remain in the program until age 18 at the discretion of the Executive Director.

Race, Religion, National Origin: No restrictions

Physical Health: A child should be in good general health. Any physical condition requiring medication shall be stabilized and the parent/guardian shall submit a physician's statement at the time of the interview if deemed necessary by the staff. There will be no restrictions on physical handicaps.

Mental Health: A child who is diagnosed by a mental health professional as dangerous to himself or others would not be acceptable in the program. At the time of application, the staff member will determine if the child is undergoing therapy for emotional problems. If so, the information release form will be signed at the time of the child's interview, and the clinical referral form will be sent to the therapist for completion

Legal Involvement: A child who has been under the juvenile justice system will receive special attention regarding their suitability for the program, and may be excluded on the basis of their legal involvement if that is deemed appropriate.

Parent Involvement: The Parent/Guardian must show willingness to cooperate with the program and abide by its policies. Legal custody shall be clarified in the intake summary, and the parent holding legal guardianship must sign permission for participation. At the time of inquiry, it shall be determined that the parent or guardian has discussed the referral with the child, and also with the absent parent if there is frequent contact with that person.

Addendum: Any child acceptable within these criteria is eligible to be matched. Matching of any child is solely dependent upon, and restricted to, the capacity indicated by the volunteer and the professional judgment of the caseworker as it relates to the matching process.