



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

GROUND RULES FOR BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER

1. Be consistent and dependable. Your Little Brother/Little Sister has to learn to trust you. Specifically, that means don't show up late, break dates, or make promises that you can't keep.
2. Give your Little Brother/Little Sister the opportunity to help you. It makes him/her feel important and needed. He/she will be proud to help you wash your car, fix dinner, etc.
3. Never discuss your Little Brother/Little Sister, his/her situation or problems in front of him/her. Not even with his/her parent or agency worker there.
4. Set realistic directions and goals for your Little Brother/Little Sister and try to make the achievement of them fun.
5. Always be supportive of the parent, even when you disagree. Don't make judgments concerning any family situation. It is, however, appropriate for you to correct misbehavior within the context of the relationship, but leave parenting to the parent. Do not interfere if the parent disciplines the Little Brother/Little Sister in your presence.
6. Don't try to be: Santa Clause to the child or parent, a taxi cab service, a probation office, a child-saver or parent rehabilitator.
7. Be yourself!
8. Make a practice of seeing your Little Brother/Little Sister no more than once a week, in order that your Little Brother/Little Sister won't be disappointed when you can no longer keep up such frequent contacts. Be sure it's quality time, not quantity.
9. It's suggested that you do not include any outside persons on your outings for at least the first month of the relationship. Introductions are fine. After the first month, only occasionally include them. It takes time for the two of you to build a relationship, but when it happens remember that he/she trusts you as a confidante. Never betray that confidence, unless it is an issue of abuse.
10. Let your Little Brother/Little Sister share in making decisions about your outings. It may take time before he/she will feel comfortable voicing an opinion. Discuss two or three options and let him/her choose. Take time to reassure them that you will enjoy doing an activity they decided upon.
11. Always call your Little Brother/Little Sister before you pick them up. Be sure he/she gets parent/guardian approval of the day, time, and plans before you hang up. Return at the agreed upon time.
12. Feel free to say NO to any and all outlandish requests. For example: the parent asks to borrow money, or they and the child want you to buy them things.
13. Let the agency worker know about any problem as soon as possible. Don't be afraid to call. Problems are easier to solve when they are small. Be sure share good news with the agency too!

I fully understand these ground rules and will follow them to the best of my ability.

Signature: _____ Date: _____