



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

GROUND RULES FOR THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

1. Your child's Big Brother/Big Sister is not a taxi service, babysitter or gift giver. Please do not treat him/her as such. Do not burden the Big Brother/Big Sister with personal or family problems.
2. Please do not discuss your child with the Big Brother/Big Sister in the presence of the child. If you think there is something he/she should know, call him/her when your child is away.
3. Try to help your child be considerate of the Big Brother/Big Sister (remembering birthdays, making occasional phone calls, etc.). But please do not interfere in their relationship with excessive quizzing and judgments. This is your child's relationship. Remember that the Big Brother/Big Sister needs to know that they are appreciated.
4. If there is something about the relationship that concerns you, contact your case manager immediately. Problems are easier solved when they are small. The sooner you call, the better.
5. Try to let the volunteer know that his/her efforts are being appreciated.
6. Remember that the relationship that exists is between your child and the Big Brother/Big Sister. Don't ask that siblings or yourself be included on outings.
7. Forgive minor mistakes in judgment. The Big Brother/Big Sister is not a trained professional, nor is he/she perfect. You will probably disagree with the volunteer at times. Don't expect miracles overnight. A relationship takes time to build.
8. The parent/guardian should not deprive the child of visits with the Big Brother/Big Sister as a means of discipline.
9. Since a Big Brother/Big Sister will tell you when he/she will be returning your child, make it a point to be home.
10. Be flexible! Remember that the Big Brother/Big Sister has a busy schedule also. Do not schedule conflicting arrangements when the Big Brother/Big Sister has set up an outing especially at the last minute.
11. Your child's Big Brother/Big Sister is a person too. Get to know him/her at least to the degree that you feel comfortable with him/her.
12. Give it time. This relationship needs time to develop – at least 3 months of consistent visits, so don't judge too quickly. Remember, there are two sides to every story.
13. Overnight visits are NOT allowed for the first 12 months of the match. After 12 months, the decision regarding overnight visits will be made by the caseworker based on feedback from the child, his/her parent/guardian, and the Big Brother/Big Sister. Some matches will never have overnight visits. If this rule is broken, the Executive Director may terminate the match.

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____