

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

1. Have your child ready and appropriately dressed when his/her Big Brother/Sister comes to pick him/her up.
2. Let the Big Brother/Sister know if you inadvertently have to change the plans that your child has made with their Big Brother/Sister.
3. Discuss the activities that your child's Big Brother/Sister plans prior to the event. If you think a particular activity is inappropriate, communicate that the Big before they arrive to pick up your child.
4. It is your responsibility to ensure that your child is provided adequate money for his/her outings. The Big Brother/Sister should plan ahead and let you know if money will be needed.
5. Make sure the volunteer knows where he/she can take your child if something should happen during the time they are out together, especially if you are not going to be at home. Besides the possibility of an accident, volunteers are told that if the child is misbehaving, he/she should be taken home.
6. It is important that you be home when your child returns from their outing with their Big Brother/Sister.
7. Be flexible in scheduling activities between your child and their Big Brother/Sister. Remember that the Big Brother/Sister has a busy schedule, too.
8. Overnight visits are not allowed for the first six months of the match. After 6 months, the match must request permission from BBBS staff prior to **each** overnight visit.
9. Get to know your child's Big Brother/Sister so that you feel comfortable with him/her.
10. Once your child returns from an activity, talk to them about what they did. It is important that you show an interest in what he/she is doing with their Big Brother/Sister.
11. Be patient with your child's match. Give it time. Every relationship needs time to develop. You should expect at least a three-month period before the relationship begins to solidify.
12. Big Brothers and Sisters need to feel appreciated. Remind your child to say "thank you," help you child think of ways to show appreciation and invite the volunteer to special events in your child's life (award ceremonies, school events, sporting activities).
13. Your child's Big Brother/Sister should not be asked to provide a taxi service for you or your family. You should not expect him/her to provide your child with gifts or to provide you with a baby-sitter.
14. Be open and honest with the volunteer about how you feel and about what they are doing.
15. If there is something about the relationship that concerns you, contact your caseworker **immediately**.
16. Please keep from doing things that might interfere with your child's relationship with their Big Brother/Sister. Try not to excessively quiz your child about their relationship or make quick judgment about the volunteer. Remember that this is your child's relationship.
17. Do not keep your child from his/her weekly visits with his/her Big Brother/Sister as a means of discipline.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central Arkansas

18. Discourage your child from comparing their Big Brother/Sister to others in their lives. Please refrain from doing so yourself as well.
19. Please keep from discussing your child with the Big Brother/Sister in the presence of the child. If there is something that you believe he/she should know, we suggest that you talk with him/her when your child is not present.
20. Do not ask personal favors or discuss personal problems with your child's Big Brother/Sister.
21. Do not ask your child's Big Brother/Sister to include other family members in his/her outing with your child.
22. Be prepared to provide your caseworker with feedback about your child's participation in the program. You will be asked about behavioral changes that have occurred during their participation in the program.
23. Maintain regular contact with the agency caseworker by responding to phone calls and letters in a timely manner. Contact with the caseworker will take place every two weeks during the first month of the match. After the first month, contact will take place once a month.
24. Participate in the closure procedures of your child's match when the time arrives to end the match.

I have read the above guidelines, which define my responsibility as the parent/guardian of a Little Brother/Sister. I acknowledge that I understand what is expected of me and agree to abide by these guidelines as long as my child is a program participant.

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____