

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR MY CHILD TO BECOME A LITTLE?

Community-Based Mentoring & Sports Buddies Programs

- Complete an application (call BBBS to request an application)
- Interview and pre-match training with child's parent/guardian to obtain family history
- Home visit with child to determine interests and willingness to participate and to provide pre-match training
- Written recommendation from counselor/therapist, if applicable

Site-Based Mentoring Program

- Referral received from participating school with parent/guardian's written permission (contact BBBS for an up-to-date list of participating schools)
- Interview with child at school to determine interests and willingness to participate and to provide pre-match training

HOW LONG WILL MY CHILD WAIT FOR A BIG?

How long a child waits depends on the availability of a Big that has been identified as compatible. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County will keep in touch with the parent/guardian while the child waits. The child will be invited to attend bimonthly group activities planned by the agency while he/she is on the waiting list. There is no guarantee that every child will be matched.

WHO ARE THE BIGS?

Bigs are volunteers from the community who are at least 18 years old. Each volunteer must complete an extensive screening process, which includes the completion of an application, an in-person interview, reference checks, criminal background and driving record checks, and participation in pre-match training. Site-Based Mentoring Program Bigs are also fingerprinted by Washington County Public Schools. A home safety assessment is completed for Community-Based Mentoring and Sports Buddies Program Bigs.

POTENTIAL



ABOUT BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Serving Littles in the community since 1956, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County is an affiliate of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, the oldest and largest mentoring organization in the country. Policy and program guidelines are established by a community-based board of directors in accordance with national program standards and practices.

THE IMPACT

The mentoring programs offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County are evidence-based. Studies show that Littles served by Big Brothers Big Sisters have higher aspirations, greater confidence, and fare better academically than their peers. Additionally, youth paired with mentors also make healthier choices, have better relationships, and exhibit fewer symptoms of depression.

100% of funds raised by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County stay in our community!



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Big Brothers
Big Sisters®

OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

A PARENT'S GUIDE



DEFENDING POTENTIAL
CREATING POSSIBILITIES

www.bbbswcmd.org

3 PROGRAMS FOR POTENTIAL



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS' MISSION

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washington County offers Community-Based Mentoring, Sports Buddies, and Site-Based Mentoring Programs.

WHO ARE LITTLE BROTHERS/SISTERS?

- Children, between the ages of 6-15, are eligible to be matched with a Big in the Community-Based Mentoring and Sports Buddies Programs
- Children, in kindergarten through 8th grades within select schools, are eligible to be matched with a Big in the Site-Based Mentoring Program
- Children primarily from single-parent families or being raised by their grandparents
- Children who reside in Washington County, MD
- Children who want to benefit from the influence of a positive adult role model and friend
- Children whose parent/guardian requests the service

HOW LONG WILL MY CHILD BE MATCHED?

Bigs are asked to make a commitment to being matched for at least a year. Community-Based Mentoring and Sports Buddies Program matches may continue until the Little graduates from high school or turns 18 years old, whichever occurs later. Site-Based Mentoring Program matches may continue until the Little advances to high school.

HOW OFTEN WILL MY CHILD MEET WITH THEIR BIG?

- Community-Based Mentoring Program – 3-5 hours/week
- Sports Buddies Program – 1-2 visits/month
- Site-Based Mentoring Program – 45-60 minutes/week



COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING PROGRAM

Bigs and Littles spend 3-5 hours together each week and enjoy many activities in the community. Activities could include going to the park, attending community and cultural events/activities, as well as just hanging out to listen to music and talk.



SPORTS BUDDIES PROGRAM

Bigs and Littles spend time together 1-2 times per month to attend a sporting event or participate in a physical fitness activity. Bigs model good sportsmanship and physical fitness, while providing opportunities for Littles to experience new sporting events and activities.



SITE-BASED MENTORING PROGRAM

Bigs visit with their Littles at a participating school for 45-60 minutes each week, during the school year. The following is a list of just a few of the many activities that Bigs and Littles enjoy: playing games, completing art projects and crafts, talking and sharing jokes, reading books, and brushing up on classwork.

To request a **Big Brother/Sister**,
just pick up the phone and
call **301.739.4711**
or email info@bbbswcmd.org.

THE POSSIBILITIES
ARE ENDLESS



FOR YOUR
CHILD