

MENTORING SUGGESTIONS AND EXPERIENCES

From mentors attending March Inservice Meeting

Several mentors discussed motivating mentees to attend and/or achieve in school.

In order to address school issues, you may need to know how your mentee is really doing. In order to find out their current grades, and communicate with their teachers, you need to go on the PowerSchool web site. You will also need to get the ID number and password from your mentee's parent or guardian. The website: www.provo.edu. Click on "Student Link", and then select "PowerSchool".

Other suggestions for motivating your mentee in school is to pick him/her up from school, go eat lunch with him/her at school and both of you do homework together (if you decide to do homework). If your mentee is reading below grade level, get books that are at or a little above their reading ability, with subjects they like (dinosaurs, cars, horses, etc.) and take turns reading to one another. Kids who can't read with understanding will never be successful in other subjects, and are at risk for dropping out.

If the mentee isn't doing well in school, or if he/she is living at poverty level, or with parents or others who have little education, or if English is their second language, the mentor may not see the possibility of them graduating from high school, and going on to college. Create in your mentee the possibility of college by taking him/her to your class or lab, going on one of the college campuses to eat, attend a sports activity or other cultural presentation.

Some of the ways mentors encourage their mentees to develop social skills include:

Involve your mentee in activities with your friends and family. He/she will be exposed to people who are friendly, polite, make eye contact when they speak, use simple good manners, like "please" and "thank you" and enjoy being together (if they aren't doing these things automatically, you might want to give them a heads-up beforehand!).

Create social situations by having your mentee help you plan and prepare a meal, and invite your friends, family, or his/her friends, family. You can prime your mentee ahead of time to welcome the guests, look them in the eye when he/she is talking to them, and smile at them.



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