



Kids in the Middle Mentoring Program

Checklist for School Counselors

Student Profile Guidelines

- Should be in the "middle" grades: between 4th - 8th grades when selected.
- Should be in the "middle" of choosing between good choices and bad choices (grades are starting to slip; behavior becoming more problematic; suffered significant loss and acting out or withdrawn; choosing anti-social friends; etc.)
- There is a "mismatch" between potential and performance
- No (or very short) history of criminal background
- No history of clinical mental health diagnosis (bi-polar, OCD, etc.) other than ADD or ADHD, that has presented severe behavior problems - if history does exist, student must be stabilized with no active issues (mania, suicidal, cutting, etc.)
- A child we can say with some confidence won't be leaving the area for at least 12 months

It is important to remember that not everyone responds to mentoring as a model for change. Some kids just don't need another adult in their life! They need skills more (they already have strong parents and peers) or they will never trust an adult without intensive therapy and clinical support (i.e., they have suffered too much neglect, abuse or trauma.)

An important finding in mentoring research suggests that youth who have a moderate environmental risk and satisfactory but not strong baseline relationships are best suited for mentoring. Again, youth who have all terrible relationships won't trust an adult and youth with a lot of adults in their lives are already saturated and don't benefit.

Procedure for Program Enrollment

- Speak with student: would she like a reliable "friend" to explore activities with and to perhaps help with life skills? (Emphasize we aren't looking for "broken" kids to "fix." We are looking for young people to help bridge the generation gap by connecting them with adults. We are looking for young people who could benefit from experiencing fun activities and new people.)
- Speak with parents/guardians to gauge willingness to support the concept and then:
- Obtain all necessary forms: Mentee Profile Form (Student); Authorization for Release of Info (Parent); Parent Permission Form, completed initial JCP Screen Prompt (Counselor) and Teacher Referral form (Counselor or Teacher)
- Send forms to Citizens for Safe Schools, P.O. Box 243, Klamath Falls, OR 97601
- At approximately twelve months, administer an interim JCP Screen Prompt
- **Enjoy Coffee Bucks (which we will send you periodically ☺) and pat yourself on the back for going "above and beyond" to help with this team effort.**