

## **What is a Little**

The Vision of Big Brothers Big Sisters is that all youth achieve their full potential. Our Mission is to create and support relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

**We "Match" children with a caring adult that becomes their Mentor and Friend. These Matches are intended to last over a year so that a true relationship forms between the Big (adult) and Little (child). The impact of this relationship can bring about changes that last a lifetime.**

How does my child become a Little? Any child between ages 5 and 14 can apply to be part of our programs. There is no income guideline and the only thing we ask is that the child want to participate. We don't want a parent "signing up" a child who has no interest in having a mentor. Applications can be done online or through your child's school if there is a program there.

What happens after the application? Someone from the Big Brothers Big Sisters will contact you about how things will progress. Whether your child is in a School program or our Community Based program, there will be forms that must be completed to move forward in finding a match for your child.

My child is in a Match, now what? Your child will meet with their Big roughly four (4) hours each month. If this is at school, they will meet once a week, on the same day and spend about an hour together. There are activities they can do, they can work on homework but the main thing is that they just talk. The relationship is different than any other in their life and building trust will also build confidence. If the Match meets outside of school, the Big and Little should choose activities together.

What does Big Brothers Big Sisters do to help me? There will be a staff member designated for your child that will interact with you on how the match is going on a regular basis. It is VERY important that you communicate with this person. Parents are a very important part of the Match, even though they are not with the Big and Little during their time together. Safety is our top priority and communication helps assure safety.

What happens if my child doesn't get "Matched" right away? Our program relies entirely on volunteers willing to share their time with a child. There are times when we simply do not have enough of these volunteers and cannot match a child right away. A Big Brothers Big Sisters staff member will stay in touch with you until a Match can be made for your child.

**We are a force for change [bbbslp.org](http://bbbslp.org) 740.349.9646**

