

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

(Community-Based)

Parent/Youth Orientation Sheet

(504) 309-7304

www.BBBSSELA.org

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Location

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Louisiana serves parents and youth from a thirteen parish area (Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Tammany, Plaquemines, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne, Washington, and Tangipahoa).

Role of Big in Match

A Big is asked to meet with your child two to three times a month. The purpose of the match relationship is to build a positive friendship with your son/daughter, while having fun and sharing new experiences. The Big is there to help your child build on the assets he/she already possesses.

What activities can a Big do with your child?

A Big and your child can go to the park for a walk and talk about their week; they can play board games/card games, they can cook a meal or bake goodies; they can go to the mall and window shop; they can wash a car; work on a science project; or help with homework; just to name a few activities. There are numerous activities they can participate in, and they will need your support as they build their relationship.

HOW ARE THE VOLUNTEERS SCREENED?

During your enrollment process for the volunteer we conduct an in-person interview (face to face); criminal history background checks; motor vehicle records check; complete three reference checks (employer, family, friend) and visit the volunteer's home.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW:

During your family's enrollment process we will conduct an in-person interview (with you and your child); review personal safety training with you and your child, and visit your home. Additionally we will need a copy of your child's most recent report card, and (if applicable) information from any counselor or therapist your child has seen. After you and your son/daughter have completed the enrollment phase, we then move you to the matching phase of the process or your child will be put on our ready to be matched list (if a volunteer is not available). During the matching phase we will look to place your child with a volunteer based on the preferences you give to us during the interview. Once your son/daughter is matched, our match support team will contact you and your child once a month to see if you and your child are satisfied with the match relationship; to assist you with any program information you may desire; and to tell you of the agency sponsored activities that may be of interest to you and your family.

WHAT DO I DO ONCE MY CHILD IS MATCHED?

During the match relationship it is important for you to talk to the volunteer and your son/daughter to see how you can support their relationship; and remember BBBS of SELA is here to assist you with any problems or concerns that may arise. We are only a phone call away.

We know that your time is important and we value any comments or suggestions that you may have that can help us do our job more effectively. If at any point during this process you are dissatisfied with our program, please contact our Senior Service Coordinator, Philip Thomas at (504) 296-2864. Thank You!