

Tool 2: How to Be a Mentor During Your Tutoring Sessions

Mentoring		
A. Be consistent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show up regularly to meet with your student • Commit through your actions • Make your student the priority when you spend time together 	<p>Dependability, consistency, and frequency are key ways to build trust, which is the core feature of a mentoring relationship. If you aren't meeting with your student, you aren't going to make a difference. Also, showing up at your assigned time each week lets your student know she can depend on you. When your student feels valued, she is more likely to open up to you and learn from you.</p>
B. Spend time getting to know your student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build in time to ask questions and get to know your student • Find out your student's likes, dislikes, friends, challenges, and strengths 	<p>Mentoring is about relationships. When you develop a close relationship, you will be able to "reach" your student and help him to achieve goals by knowing his strengths and challenges. Think about those teachers in your life who made the biggest impact. Did they just walk in the room and tell you what you needed to learn? No, they got to know you and you got to know them.</p>
C. Incorporate fun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find ways to laugh together. A moment of silliness is a great way to break the ice. • Find ways to engage your student • Link a story to something interesting/personal to the child 	<p>One of the most important things about being a mentor is to find ways to connect. Building fun (and even laughter) into your session can help to break the ice, make your student (and you) feel more comfortable, and can build a foundation that can be even more supportive to the needs. Also, students are more likely to learn when they can personally engage with a lesson.</p>
D. Be a role model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate skills that you want your student to emulate through problem solving, treating others with respect, and staying present during your time together 	<p>Role modeling is a key way that mentors can make a difference. Your student will learn from how you approach challenges, work through problems, and show respect. When you intentionally role model those traits you want your student to learn, he can see what something looks like in action. When a student respects you, he will want to be more like you.</p>
E. Be empathetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show curiosity for and interest in the student • Remember that you and your mentee may come from different backgrounds 	<p>Remember that your student may come from a different background and may be experiencing a number of challenges outside of the classroom. Therefore, showing empathy and patience is essential.</p>
F. Celebrate the skills your student used to achieve success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with your student to see what steps she took to achieve success • Give praise: a simple high five will go a long way! 	<p>Praising a student for her success is important. However, working with her to identify how she achieved success can be lasting. Highlighting the strategies used to achieve success can help your student apply these to other situations and settings, making more of an impact over time.</p>