



CREATIVE MENTORING®

**A School-Based Mentoring
Program That Works!**



In Delaware, 51% of children and youth have experienced at least one ACEs (adverse childhood experiences).¹ All schools are challenged by the large number of children affected by trauma and are looking for supportive community-based programs that promote resilience and provide protective buffers, so that students can devote more time, energy and attention to school success and goal achievement.

**Mentoring provides one of the best
protective buffers for children
experiencing adversity!**

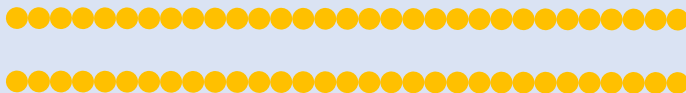
According to the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, “Every child who winds up doing well has had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult.” Research shows that positive relationships are a powerful buffer for children experiencing adversity and trauma.² School-based mentoring is a safe, proven approach to building positive relationships between adults and children. By providing children with the caring, ongoing, purposeful support and interaction of an adult, our programs help children build self-esteem, self-confidence, interpersonal communication skills, social values, aspirations, and enhances school engagement.

It Works!

A recent evaluation of Creative Mentoring® by an external research firm with extensive experience in mentoring programs validated our ability to build strong, trusted relationships between mentors and students. In the evaluator’s judgement, our mentoring relationships are among the strongest. Students self-reported positive academic gains and improved behaviors, which were confirmed by teacher reports. We have over 1400 active mentors serving in over 100 schools throughout Delaware.

¹ <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

² <https://www.mentoring.org/why-mentoring/mentoring-impact/>



BECOME A MENTOR TODAY!

- Mentors meet with their students for an hour once a week during the school year.
- Mentors come from all walks of life: retirees, high school students, office workers, church members, community volunteers, etc. Anyone with a passion for helping children and an ability to accept kids “where they are” can be a successful mentor.
- Mentoring allows adults to give something of themselves in a way that’s both selfless and deeply fulfilling.
- Mentors have the privilege of watching their mentees’ lives improve as a result of the help, friendship, and guidance they provide.

For more information:

**TDickerson@connecting-generations.org or
call 302-656-2122**

**"Connecting Generations provides the tools
that children need to become emotionally
strong, resilient, and socially
competent individuals who can successfully
navigate school and life."**

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CREATIVE EDUCATION

The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning defines social and emotional learning (SEL) as “the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to understand and manage emotions, set and accomplish positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.”

Our SEL programs explore the five core competencies of SEL - self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making - as well as the importance of respect. Our approach engages students in interactive and hands on activities that allow students to examine and analyze the role that they play in helping schools create a safe climate and a positive culture.



Social and Emotional Learning Programs

Power of Water (POW)

A 10-week character-building workshop series centered around the theme of water that help students navigate and adapt to change and process trauma. POW seeks to promote students' positive coping mechanisms and adaptation skills in a changing world. Students learn strategies for dealing with difficult times, how to manage positive and negative thoughts, how to adapt to change, how to make positive decisions, and the importance of building healthy relationships.

Seasons of Respect (SOR)

4th Grade Exploration Respect

A 7- week workshop series that challenges children to examine the importance of respect in friendships, healthy anger, gratitude and appreciation of self.

5th Grade Journey of Respect:

An interactive, hands on and thought provoking 8-week workshop series. Children explore their feelings and values about respect and the value of positive attitudes and behaviors to deal with peers and others.



Peer Mentoring Program

Character Climb

The Character Climb program is a comprehensive peer facilitation project that trains upper elementary students (4th and 5th) to work with KN, 1st and 2nd grade students on Social Emotional activities. Pairs build supportive peer relationships throughout the school year.

School Based/After School Program

Respect Through the Arts (RAP)

This program is centered on exploring respect through the arts. Each lesson begins with an essential question focused on “Respect” and explores SEL competencies. Programs are designed for grades K-8th (High school programs are available).

Summer Program

Summer Breeze

This program is activity based and centered on exploring emotions, resiliency and managing stress.

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CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

Creative Collaborations partners with organizations across the state to provide programs that support youth in specialized populations.



Sibshops provide young brothers and sisters with peer support and information in a lively, recreational setting.

According to The Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center, 22% of Delaware children required special health care needs in 2019/2020.

Special health care needs are defined as emotional, developmental, behavioral issues, or limited abilities requiring more medical, mental health, or educational services than their peers, physical, occupational, or speech therapies, or prescription medications. Many programs and services exist to support the children with special needs and their parents. However, siblings are often overlooked; although, clinical research suggests siblings have issues and concerns similar to their parents, as well as their own unique needs.

Sibshops were created to address this need!

Sibshops are for siblings ages 7-15 who have a sibling with a disability.

- ❖ Play some great games, have fun, laugh!
- ❖ Meet other siblings who "get it"
- ❖ Develop self awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making.
- ❖ Talk about the good and not so good parts of having a sibling with a disability.



Sibshops are highly recreational workshops designed to provide peer support to the brothers and sisters of people with special health, developmental, and/or mental health concerns. We integrate core concepts of SEL into high and low-energy activities to provide opportunities for siblings to engage in conversation, network with other siblings, explore ways to address concerns, play, and build SEL skills. By combining the Sibshop and SEL curricula, children will become more aware of their own emotions, strengths, opportunities for growth, personal interests/qualities, and personal responsibility/advocacy. They will also develop an awareness of others' emotions and perspectives, as well as the ability to make healthy decisions and maintain positive relationships.

In addition to Sibshops, Creative Collaborations provides mentoring to youth in and aging out of foster care - Fostering Connections and through a partnership with the Jack Carney Family Foundation - Jack's Kids supports a reading initiative that provides tutors and mentors to youth with a goal to ensure reading proficiency at or above grade level for all youth by 4th grade. Other initiatives include programs for children that are displaced, or have an incarcerated parent.

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Our programs are offered in all three counties through partnerships with organizations that provide direct care to children in special populations.



Creative Collaborations'

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

Program

***Designed with youth in mind,
mentorship support is provided to
youth in and aging out of foster care.***

In collaboration with our Creative Mentoring Division and organizations that provide services to youth in and aging out of foster care, we aim to provide a supportive, caring relationship with an adult that fosters positive development, skill-building, and personal growth.

- ⇒ In 2022, in the state of Delaware, the number of youth in foster care was **427**. In 2023, the number increased to **595**.
- ⇒ In 2024, approximately **400,000** children were served in foster care throughout the nation, with **70%** of them wanting to go to college.
- ⇒ Less than **60%** of youth do not graduate from high school and only **3%** of graduates will attend a post-secondary school.
- ⇒ Youth have not only faced the trauma of being removed from their biological home, an estimated **40%** have faced some form of abuse or neglect. Studies have shown that youth who have experienced trauma find value in the caring, ongoing, purposeful interaction with an adult – a **MENTOR**.



- ⇒ Available research suggests that mentoring youth in care can have positive impacts on many targeted outcomes, including mental health, educational functioning and attainment, peer relationships, placement outcomes, and life satisfaction.
- ⇒ Studies have shown that within two to four years of exiting foster care at age 18:
 - **50%** will develop a substance dependence.
 - **70%** of young women will become pregnant.
 - **60%** of young men will be convicted of a crime.
 - **38%** of young adults will become employed.
 - Less than **19%** of young adults have a full-time job.

Mentoring can help our youth overcome the challenges of the many transitions they endure by providing consistent, caring support and modeling important life skills.

**HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIVES OF OUR YOUTH!**

Sources:

- 1) <https://chlss.org/blog/aging-out-of-foster-care-infographic/>
- 2) <https://usafacts.org/articles/how-many-kids-are-in-foster-care/>
- 3) <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>