Tips for Mentors and Tutors

Based on leading a volunteer-based tutor/mentor program in inner-city Chicago from 1975 to 2011
Mentee and Mentor are Learning

Every mentor is different and constantly changing. Every youth is different and constantly changing.

That means there is no single formula for being an effective tutor/mentor. You’re constantly experimenting and learning. The longer you stay involved, the more you know.

If you connect and share ideas with other volunteers you can build a support system for yourself and your mentee that enhances your experience and helps you have a more positive impact on the life of your mentee.
#1) Be there. Be consistent. Keep your appointments. Maintain consistent contact. This is essential for building the trust and relationships upon which successful mentoring matches build.

#2) It’s about the mentee, not you. Don’t judge your self-worth or value as a tutor based on the changes that you expect to see in your mentee.
Mentoring is something you learn to do with practice. It’s not something that you’re an expert at the first time you try.
Think of mentoring as part of a long-term goal

Constantly ask yourself, “What am I doing to help my mentee reach his/her goals?”

See this map. - http://tinyurl.com/TMC-K-Career-Mentoring
You can build a mentoring relationship with four common questions, repeated each time you meet with your mentee.

- What’s happened from last meeting till now that makes you feel good?
- What’s happened that makes you feel bad (share/discuss)
- What’s going on in school? Any tests, papers, college access? What can I do to help you with these?
- What’s happening in the news? Discuss
Do your homework. Prepare. Be a constant learner. Suggested learning resources

- Talking it through – Communications skills - http://talkingitthrough.educationnorthwest.org/
- Center for the Advancement of Mentoring - http://www.advancementmentoring.org/online-training
- See more at - http://tinyurl.com/TMI-MentorTraining
Be Prepared. Know the Resources

• College & career resources - [http://tinyurl.com/TMI-College-Career](http://tinyurl.com/TMI-College-Career)

• Homework Resources - [http://tinyurl.com/TMC-Homework-Resources](http://tinyurl.com/TMC-Homework-Resources)

• Tips for Mentors, Tutors - [http://tinyurl.com/TMI-Tips-for-mentors](http://tinyurl.com/TMI-Tips-for-mentors)
Network with others.

Connect with other mentors, in your own program, in other programs, in your workplace and faith groups. Share what works for you. Be a mentor to others.

Volunteer time to help the organization that enables you to connect with your mentee. You can learn more, and build stronger commitment to the youth and the program.
Learn more of how volunteers can use their time, talent, networks and resources to help young people move through school and into jobs and careers.

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