

## 50 Things to Do with Your Mentee

Mentoring ideas below are some tips and strategies for mentoring sessions. Make sure activities are suited to the age and maturity level of your mentee before trying them and that they are approved by the school and/or district. Also, be creative. This list is just a springboard to help you think of good activities. Finally, do not be too structured, but always have a plan! Spontaneity is an important part of any mentoring relationship.

1. Start by telling your mentee why you decided to become a mentor. Tell about yourself with pictures if possible. Kids are very visual these days.
2. Play games—board games such as chess, checkers, and Monopoly or Sudoku and crossword puzzles. Allow the mentee to decide on games to play together.
3. Select books you like and read them together. Get to an exciting part and finish it the next time you are together.
4. Do research on the internet on a topic the mentee is interested in.
5. Learn effective study habits and time management skills.
6. Exchange favorite recipes.
7. Build something together (model car, LEGOS)
8. Create a holiday, get-well, or greeting card for a special occasion.
9. Discuss opportunities for post-secondary education. Research two and four-year colleges, technical schools, and the meaning of financial aid. What does it take to get into college? What high school courses should be taken? It is never too early to begin planning.
10. Start a pen pal project with a group of young people in another country.
11. Talk about your first job.
12. Investigate careers.
13. Write a resume. Write to a college of the student's choice requesting information.
14. Have a pretend job interview.
15. Figure out how to program an electronic item.
16. Create a design and paint a pumpkin on Halloween.
17. Plan for a sound financial future. Discuss opening savings and checking accounts and managing credit cards.
18. Talk about friends—those that the mentee would like to have and those he/she does have.
19. Decorate t-shirts and wear your creations proudly. Let him/her decorate one for you to wear!
20. Discuss people you admire. Compare heroes and research your favorites.
21. Ask your mentee—if you could go back to middle school/elementary school what would you do differently?
22. Invent something!

23. Have the mentee help you solve a problem (e.g., doing something on your phone).
24. Share your life experiences.
25. Keep a journal.
26. Practice the answers to questions for the driver's license test.
27. Work on a community service project. Check out Project Linus.
28. Complete a personality inventory.
29. Help your mentee craft a personal mission statement.
30. Help your mentee learn about the Covey Seven Habits for Highly Effective Teens.
31. Help your mentee organize his/her binder or locker and develop a calendar system.
32. Do an arts and crafts project (if your mentee enjoys arts and crafts).
33. Make something out of modeling clay.
34. Make a scrapbook of the year together.
35. Make a collage or Dream Board out of cutouts from a magazine.
36. Teach a lesson about etiquette, such as how to arrange silverware for a place setting or how to make proper introductions.
37. Create a new board or card game.
38. Take an imaginary trip around the world and study about each place you might visit.
39. Do a fun science experiment. (Must get approval first).
40. Write poems or rap songs together.
41. Read the newspaper and magazines together.
42. Plan a random act of kindness (such as putting chocolate kisses in every teacher's box).
43. Ask your mentee where he/she hopes to be in five years? In ten?
44. Teach the alphabet, words, and phrases of a foreign language.
45. Teach how to give a good handshake. Practice makes perfect!
46. Write and illustrate an original book together.
47. Discuss your favorite apps/websites.
48. Write an editorial and send it to the school paper or a local publication.
49. Write thank-you notes.
50. Make an "activities jar" to pull from each meeting. Both you and your mentee can decide on things to write on paper to place in the jar.