



## HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE PARENT

- Reminder your child before the volunteer comes to pick him/her up and make sure they are dressed appropriately for the activity.
- Encourage your child to talk about his/her volunteer and their activities but don't pry.
- Do not use denial of seeing the volunteer as punishment.
- Encourage your child to come up with ideas and activities to share with his/her volunteer and express his/her feelings to his/her volunteer.
- Never break an appointment with the volunteer without first giving an explanation and then only if necessary. He/she has freed up time especially for your child.
- Call your BBBS Mentoring Specialist when you have a question, need help or want to relate an experience (either pleasant or unpleasant).
- Notify your BBBS Mentoring Specialist if you move or get a new phone number. Also let BBBS know of any other important changes.
- We encourage open communication with your child's volunteer. If there is a problem with the volunteer (for example, always 15 minutes late), try to relay it to him/her. He/she wants to know how you feel.
- Please remember the volunteer is NOT a babysitter. If you do not leave your child home alone on a regular basis, please be home when the volunteer brings your child home. This alleviates any parental decision on the volunteer's part as to where to leave your child.
- Please remember the volunteer's major role is not as a disciplinarian or parent substitute for your child. He/she is an older friend.
- Apply these and your own ideas to contribute to a successful experience for your son/daughter!

### Can the youth be home alone?

If not, and no approved persons are home upon returning from an outing, the volunteer will:

- 1) Call and text the parent/guardian.
- 2) If no response after 15 minutes, call and text the emergency contact and the Mentoring Specialist.
- 3) Volunteer may leave a note and go to a different location.
- 4) If no response after 1 hour from initial communication attempts with parent/guardian, volunteer calls police.