



Family Literacy Engagement Grab & Go: Mentor Programs

This activity would be
best used by:

Schools Families

Materials:

- Storybooks or decodable readers for students to read
- Transportation to/from school sites for high schoolers or devices with virtual meeting capability
- School space for meetings to occur



Steps:

1. School administrators and teachers establish partnerships with local high schools to create mentor programs where high school students meet periodically with younger students to listen to them read and have conversations about what they are reading.
2. High schoolers can either travel to the schools to meet with mentees or conduct meetings virtually with students.
3. In the first meeting, the high schooler will bring a favorite book or story to share with the mentee. The high school student reads aloud to the student and shares why he/she loves the book that they are reading. At the end of the first meeting, the high schooler will ask the mentee to think about a favorite book and be prepared to read to them during their next visit.
4. While they are reading, the high schooler can pose questions to their mentees, and ask them why they chose their book, what they love about reading, and any other questions related to literacy. Teachers may need to provide prompts or conversation starters, especially for younger readers. At the end of the session, the high schooler will ask the child to think of another book for the next session.
5. Host a mentor/mentee celebration at the end of the school year where mentors/mentees can meet to celebrate their year of reading and talk about what went well and what they learned.

Lagniappe:

Let mentors and mentees send “penpal” messages to each other throughout the week about interesting things they have read or learned. This can be done via traditional or digital methods.

Have the mentors/mentees plan a “book chat” with another mentor/mentee pair.

Create a competition between the mentor/mentee to see who can read the most books.