

# TOP MENTORING TIPS

**Got all that? Great! Here are some tips to help make you and your mentee get the most out of the time you spend together.**

## **Be Caring**

Don't let things get too complicated. The essence of mentoring is you caring, and that alone goes a long way. Mentors care about their mentees' progress in school and career planning, as well as their personal development and the children often need just this – old fashioned warm, loving care and understanding.

## **Be There**

Mentoring only works when you are there. You must find the time to see your mentee regularly. Good intentions are not enough, children can tell how much you care by how often you show up, so being there steadily is very important. When you show up for every meeting with your mentee and strive to make things work out you send your mentee a strong message that you care and that he or she is worth caring about.<sup>3</sup>

## **Listen**

Talking and communicating are not the same things. This packet offers some good advice on communication. Where you go and what you do with your mentee is less important than how well you listen.

## **Be Resilient**

Mentoring takes time to produce results. Children will not offer their trust and affection quickly, so it is important to be patient

but most will need a little guidance on your part. If your mentee doesn't have any preferences, start by giving them a range of choices. "Here are some things we can do. Which ones sound good to you?"<sup>3</sup>

### **Be Proud and Rewarded**

As a mentor you are providing a great service and are truly making a huge difference in the life of a child. Many mentors find the relationship is as rewarding for them as it is for their mentee.