



## SUMMARY

High school students (mentors) went through a two week training that covered Introduction to Mentorship (HSSI050) with a teacher. Then they met weekly with the teacher to pick themes and plan activities to do with their elementary mentee. Mentors walked to the nearby elementary school and spent time with their mentee.

## ACTIVITIES

- Get to know each other games (ex. show and tell)
- Team building activities
- Reading and writing
- Mentors kept a log book, learned about S.M.A.R.T. goals, positive youth development and what makes a good mentor.

## BENEFITS

- Attendance improvements
- 5 Mentoring Credits and 1 Leadership Credit available
- Positive school climate
- Teaches:
  - healthy relationship skills
  - conflict resolution skills
  - public speaking skills

## SUPPORTS

- Administration buy in
- Collaboration with elementary school staff
- School counsellor in both schools helped with matching students
- Offered a baby sitters course one year

## CONSIDERATIONS

- Sit down with the curriculum to make a program that could work and be assessed (What does this look like? What are our expectations of these credits?)
- Make sure to be clear on the purpose of the mentoring program and communicate the purpose to the elementary school staff
- Matching students can be a challenge, work with people who know the students to decide if they are a good match
- Scheduling is always a challenge, but we kept in mind the benefits
- Transportation, they couldn't always walk due to the weather

“ I had a kiddo, who had always been complex and always a behaviour concern, come to me and say “This kid is off the wall Ms. B, I don't know what to do with him. He's not listening, how can I get his attention?” Working through that with him was incredible because that student was then reflecting and putting strategies in place that they used and they are realizing where this kid is coming from. “I can't sit that long either Ms. B.” You aren't getting that anywhere else.

High School Teacher