



SUMMARY

Grade 1 and grade 8 teachers started virtual mentoring during covid with the help of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Littles and bigs met virtually for 30-45 minutes to work on communication skills, literacy and reading. There were movement breaks and lots of fun to keep the grade 1's engaged.

ACTIVITIES

- In the beginning the teachers made the lesson plans. over time they gradually moved the lesson planning to the grade 8 students
- Wiggle breaks, dances, movements
- Math, reading and communication skills
- Training on healthy relationships

BENEFITS

- Supported connection during Covid
- Fostered social skills
- Developed younger students computer skills
- Opportunity for quiet students to talk
- Fun

SUPPORTS

- Used Google Classroom, kept a consistent link that everyone joined and then were put into breakout rooms.
- Virtual mentoring during covid with the help of Big brother Big Sisters staff

CONSIDERATIONS

- Practiced using google classroom with grade 1 before meeting bigs
- Noise levels, the school bought headphones
- Grouped students into 2 or 3 to navigate attendance concerns
- Lesson plans to be reviewed by teacher especially websites if they were to be used during lessons

“ The big buddies really rose to the challenge; we didn't have to pick the best of the best or the kids with the best conversational skills. All of them really rose to the challenge, even those quiet grade 8's got to come out of their shell. I think that's really important. ”

Grade 1 Teacher