



Building LifeSkills

October
RESPECT

Young people have regard for the dignity, worth, and rights of all people, including themselves.



40 Key Building Blocks to Help Kids Succeed

Search Institute has identified 40 building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible. These building blocks are referred to as "assets." Local schools have united in identifying monthly "asset" themes for schools and communities to help kids reach their potential.

- I have empathy for others.
- I am sensitive to the feelings of others.
- I am courteous and considerate of others.
- I look for goodness in others.
- I judge all people on their own merits.
- I solve conflicts with others peacefully.
- I refrain from threatening, intimidating, or using violence.
- I exercise self-restraint.
- I take good care of my body.
- I abstain from sexual activity.
- I am drug-free and alcohol-free.

MONTHLY THEMES

- October.....Respect
- November.....Responsibility
- December.....Caring
- January.....Fairness
- February.....Trustworthiness
- March.....Positive Identity
- April.....Citizenship
- May.....Volunteerism
- June.....Support
- July.....Constructive use of time
- August.....Commitment to learning
- September.....Decision-making

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- Lorain County Children Services
- Lorain County Board of Mental Health
- Lorain County Domestic Relations Court

Respect transcends generations

by Andrea Haynes, BBBS
School Based Manager

Respect means different things to different people. We may say we "respect your privacy" and set a limit on our behavior. We may say we "respect you" for stepping up and helping someone, which means we admire you. We may even say that we go "pay our respects" when someone dies.

In all cases, we are taking a minute to think of the other person. We do not take advantage of a situation; we hold ourselves back a little and make room for them. We give them the benefit of something more than kindness – a feeling that puts them on equal standing with us.

Through the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, we can see respect being lived out in every match: not only do "Bigs," or mentors, teach their "Littles" about respect through their words, but they do so through their actions. Take, for instance, the story of Big Brother Ted Dowdell and his granddaughter, Heather Boose. Ted had been a Lunch Buddy to his Little Brother, Larry, for 4 years, riding an electric scooter or three-wheeled bicycle to Larry's school to visit him during lunch once a week. Ted's granddaughter, Heather, saw that this journey was becoming difficult for her grandfather and, out of respect for the important bond he had with Larry, she began giving Ted rides to Larry's school to make it easier for them to continue their match.

After seeing them together, Heather became inspired by what her grandfather was doing and wanted to help Ted and Larry become an even bigger part of each other's lives. So this past July Heather and Ted joined forces and became mentors to Larry in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Based program, meaning they participate in activities together beyond the walls of the school. Through this match, Larry is building a friendship with Heather while continuing to solidify his already strong



Big Brother Ted Dowdell, his Little Brother Larry and granddaughter Heather pose for a photo. Ted received the School based Big of the Year award in January of this year for his dedication to his match with Larry in the face of many obstacles.

relationship with Ted. What started because of a granddaughter's respect and admiration for her grandfather's volunteerism has become a meaningful, rewarding experience for a family as well as a great example for a young man.

Respect is as simple as seeing the worth or value in someone or something and acting accordingly. You, too, can live out the asset of respect by becoming a mentor, friend and role model to a child in Lorain County. Find out more by visiting www.bigloraincounty.org or by calling (440) 277-6541 today.



Big Brothers Big Sisters