



TOGETHER, WE ARE
DEFENDERS
OF POTENTIAL

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama is the largest one-to-one mentoring organization in south Alabama. We are not your typical organization. We enlist volunteers, Bigs, to help children, Littles, realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities through two programs, Community and School-based. Through these two programs, we typically enroll children ages 6-15 and continue supporting the match through age 18.

Our programs **Start** Something. Here's the proof. National research has shown that positive relationships between a Little and their Big has a direct and measurable impact on children's lives when they are matched for at least a year.

2021 Youth Outcomes:

- 96%** of Littles kept or created plans for high school graduation and beyond.
- 79%** of Littles stayed on track with or improved their grades.
- 81%** of Littles kept a strong or increased sense of family connectedness.
- 93%** of Littles reported a strong or increasing level of social competence.

Littles are...

- primarily from single parent families or are raised by extended family
- ages 6—15 males & females, when enrolled
- have the ability & willingness to develop a one-to-one relationship with a volunteer
- Demonstrate a willingness to have new experiences
- parents and guardians must remain involved in the match and commit to at least one year of participation in the program

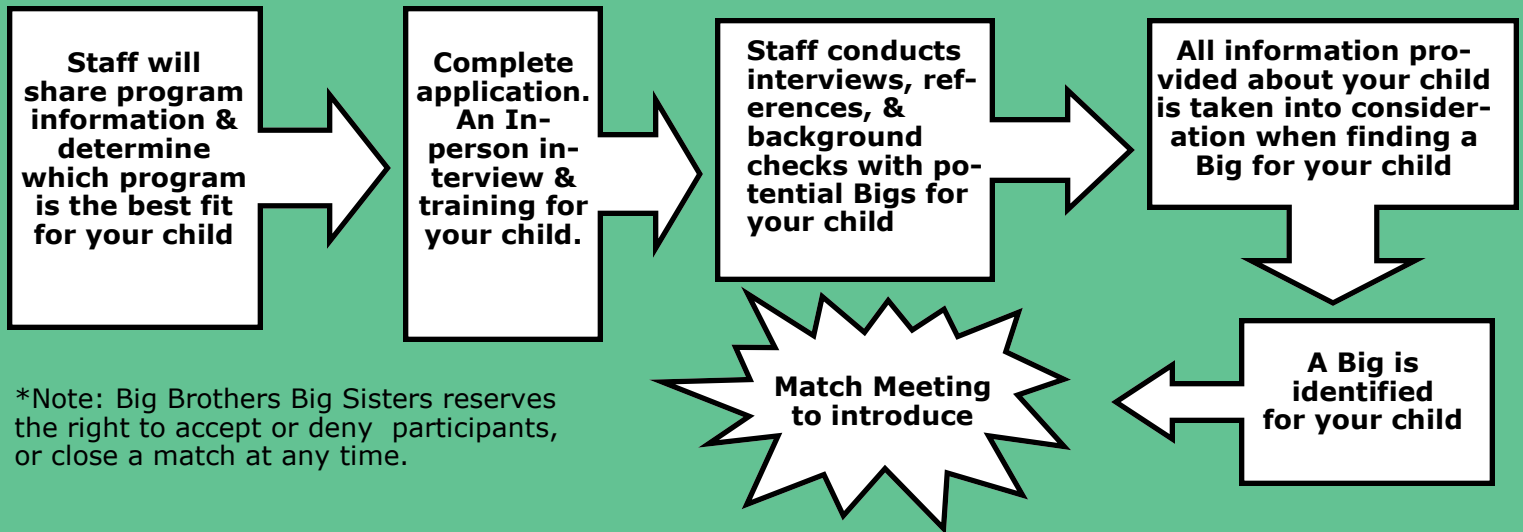
Mission: Create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

OUR PROGRAMS:

Community-based program: Community-based Mentoring is the traditional Big Brothers Big Sisters relationship. Our volunteers, Bigs, provide children and youth, Littles, individualized time and attention doing things they enjoy in the community. The commitment is a minimum of one year with the goal for the match to spend an average of 4-6 hours a month together. During unstructured outings, filled with conversations and shared activities, they develop a relationship that helps youth manage the every-day challenges that are part of "growing up". During the time with their Big, children gain new skills, explore new interests, and test behaviors that expand their experience base beyond their family or neighborhood. Big Brothers Big Sisters supports the match monthly through contacts and optional planned activities.

School-based program: Our volunteers, Bigs, offer children and youth, Littles, individualized time and attention on a consistent basis, that takes place on school grounds during school hours. Teachers and counselors identify those children who can most benefit from an extra caring adult in their lives. Bigs and Littles meet regularly during the school year utilizing the resources available within the school: computer labs, the library, the gym, a classroom, or the school yard. During the summer, they exchange letters. Whether they play board games or read the newspaper together, their relationship promotes a positive school experience for the child: good attendance, positive peer and adult relationships, a positive attitude, and academic enrichment. As their friendship evolves over time, Bigs and Littles discover ways to make school and learning fun. When matches continue from one school year to the next, volunteers experience the satisfaction of watching their Littles achieve success in school.

Enrollment Process



Parental Involvement

Parents and guardians are not just part of the process, they are part of the success. When it comes to the future of our children and the well-being of our communities, we're all in this together. So it should come as no surprise that we need the parents and guardians of Littles to be involved every step of the way, starting with the initial match.

Not only will you provide information about your child's strengths and needs, but you'll also approve the selection of the Big Brother or Big Sister. Once the match is made, you remain closely involved in many ways, including:

- Approving activities and outings for your child and Big
- Asking your child questions about those outings, and sharing what you learn with the agency staff
- Reporting your child's progress and milestones to the agency on a regular basis (Big Brothers Big Sisters will contact you, but we welcome your feedback any time)
- Participating in training on child safety offered by Big Brothers Big Sisters staff, and communicating with your child about the training he or she receives
- Annual participation in an agency survey
- Ongoing monthly communication during the 1st year

Safety First

The safety of your child is your highest priority. It's no different at Big Brothers Big Sisters. Making the best match between a Little and a Big is critical to the growth and development of a child. But before we begin the match process, we start by thoroughly screening potential Bigs. Big Brothers Big Sisters National Standards of Excellence requires each volunteer to complete an extensive screening process that includes:

- Completion of a formal written application
- Background and reference checks
- An in-person interview
- An orientation and training process that outlines the individual needs of your child and provides information and resources on how to encourage your child's development

Big Brothers Big Sisters also provides child safety tips to you and your child, and we welcome your questions and feedback. Throughout the life of the match, our professional staff will be in communication with you, your child, and your child's Big. It's the best way to build a strong relationship that will have the greatest impact on your child's future success.

Having another **ROLE MODEL** in your child's life is sometimes just the extra support they will need!



If you are interested in enrolling your child:

- You can scan the QR code with your cell camera or
- You can go to <https://bbbs.tfaform.net/f/BBBSSA> or
- You can contact Kelly at 251-344-0536 ext 107, kelly@bbbssa.org or stop by the office at 3 South Royal St Ste 300, Mobile, AL 36602.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE!

