

# MENTORING WITH READ AHEAD

Read Ahead connects children from underserved communities with caring, trusted, consistent mentors in a fun, kid-friendly environment. Centered around the foundational experience of reading together, mentors give their mentees the **confidence, motivation, and improved skills** to succeed in school and in life.

Our values are: Students First – Opportunity – Growth – Relationships – Empowerment – Joy.

## OUR PROGRAM



- centers on creating a strong relationship with a mentee
- provides mentees an opportunity to explore their interests and discover new ones
- guarantees one-on-one time with someone who cares about them and makes them feel like they matter
- uses books and reading as fun tools to build and strengthen the mentoring relationship



- is not a literacy program
- is not designed to directly improve academic skills
- does not take place outside of the school

## A READ AHEAD MENTOR



- cares
- builds trust
- shows up consistently
- acts as a positive role model
- believes in their mentee's potential
- offers a listening ear with an open mind
- maintains realistic expectations for their mentee's age
- is patient and flexible
- follows the mentee's lead



- is not a teacher
- is not a tutor or literacy instructor
- is not a parent
- is not a social worker



## MENTORS' COMMITMENTS/EXPECTATIONS

- Mentor for a full school year from early October – early June.
- Inform the Program Coordinator as soon as possible if you are running late, must be absent, or are no longer available to mentor.
- Attend the scheduled mentoring sessions consistently and limit rescheduling or canceling to no more than 5 times per year as a weekly mentor or 2 times per year as a co-mentor.
- Limit cell phone use during sessions.
- Prioritize relationship-building and providing a supportive, caring relationship to your mentee over reading and academic goals.
- Protect and not share personal and/or identifying information (e.g. full name) about your mentee or other children.
- Not take photos or videos of your mentee or any children at the school unless their guardians have signed a release.
- Follow all social media guidelines provided by Read Ahead to protect the safety of the children.
- Not bring in gifts (including food) for your mentee or any children in Read Ahead.
- Not eat or bring open containers of food into the school.

Questions? Email us at: [volunteer@readahead.org](mailto:volunteer@readahead.org)