

start something



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Metropolitan Chicago

University Based Mentoring



Emerson Elementary School

and

**DOMINICAN
UNIVERSITY**



Think of the possibilities. **What will you start?**

Start **Something**[™]

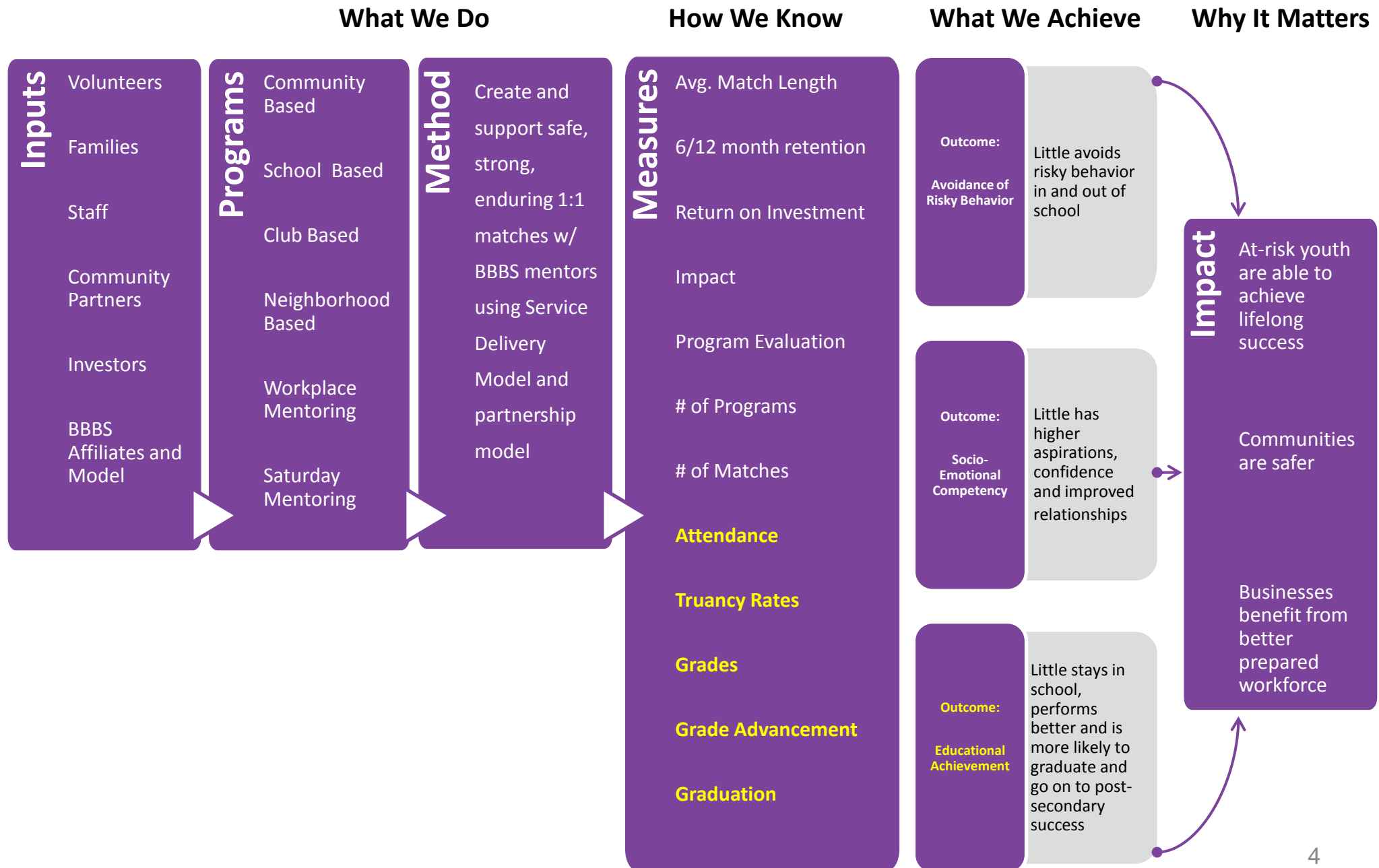
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Agency Overview

- Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between positive, caring, screened and trained adult volunteers (“Bigs”) and youth (“Littles”)
- **Our mission** is to empower at-risk youth by providing high impact one-to-one mentoring that enables lifelong success
- Established nationally in 1908 - Chicago in 1967
- Serve Cook, Lake & DuPage Counties in Illinois and Lake County, IN
- Impact over 1,600 students annually
- Built on a partnership model that includes a diverse portfolio of corporate/foundation partners, school/community partners, college/university partners, individual investors, and volunteers

Logic Model



Our Impact

Big Brothers Big Sisters is proven by independent studies to help improve the odds that students in our programs will avoid risk taking behaviors, perform better in school, and succeed as adults:

Students matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister are:

- 46% less likely to start using drugs
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 1/3 less likely to participate in physical violence
- More likely to get along with their family and peers
- More likely to graduate than those who are in similar situations*

***This past school year, 100% of high school seniors in our program graduated and are attending college this fall.**

Our Outcomes

We hold ourselves accountable for and are able to measure specific youth outcomes around:

- **Educational Achievement**

Attendance, Grades, Grade Advancement, Graduation

- **Avoidance of Risky Behaviors**

Drugs & Alcohol Use, Gangs, Violence, Juvenile Delinquency

- **Socio-Emotional Competence**

Social Skills, Self-Esteem, Relationships w/ Family & Peers, Confidence

The Program

- Screened/trained university “Bigs” matched in one-to-one mentoring relationships w/ elementary student “Littles”
- Serves students in 5th through 8th grade
- Littles are transported to and from the University partner’s campus
- Activities are preplanned, structured, and supervised by on-site Program Coordinator

Your Program Coordinator

- Full-time, degreed, professionally trained
- Interviews, matches all program participants
- Plans activities and supervises program
- Facilitates volunteer training
- Provides support and guidance to matches
- Works with school and university liaison to ensure program runs smoothly and effectively

Timeframe

- Program operates during the school year (January through May)
- One session per week, every other week on set day/time after school
- Each session is 1.5 hours

A Typical Program Day

- **First Half Hour – Relationship Building :**
 - One-to-one time between Big & Little
 - Snack
 - Matches catch up/chat
 - Big encourages Little to finish homework
- **Last Hour – Educational/Skill Building Activity:**
 - Icebreaker
 - Preplanned, one-to-one or group activity
 - Wrap-up

Activities

Theme/Topic	Key Concepts or Skills can include
Workplace/Business Etiquette	Appropriate workplace behavior/conduct
Personal Development	Goal setting, identifying personal strengths
Professional Relationships	Conflict management; working w/ stereotypes
Job/Candidate Preparation	Interviewing skills, resume writing
Career Exploration	Define your passion; learn who you want to be
Community Investment	Cultural exploration, gang/violence prevention
Financial Investment	Budgeting, financial planning, responsible spending
Team Work	Team building, negotiation, mediation
University Pride	University specific: learn about university partner
Cultivating Connections	Interpersonal relationships, networking, diversity
Growing Your Network	Business letter writing, maintaining contacts, saying thank you
College Prep	SAT/ACT prep, college application process, finding scholarships

Who Are The Littles?

- Guidance Counselor, Teacher or Principal recommend students, considering the following factors:
 - **educational achievement**
(truancy, poor grades, at-risk of dropping out)
 - **avoiding risk taking behavior**
(attitudes towards drugs, alcohol, violence, etc.)
 - **socio-emotional competence**
(low confidence, no sense of future, no caring adult)
- Students will be a mix of those in the middle of the road and those who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally
- Program is not mandatory, students are asked to commit for the entire school year

Student Enrollment Process

- School staff assists in determining students who will benefit most from the program
- School Liaison (SL) distributes applications
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) complete/return application to SL
- SL monitors incoming applications/distributes additional applications
- SL passes signed applications to Program Coordinator (PC)
- SL works w/ PC to schedule a time to interview students
(about 20 minutes/student)
- SL reserves space in the school for interviews and communicates with teachers regarding students leaving class for interview

Volunteer Screening Process

- **Application:** volunteer completes application and returns to BBBS
- **Background Checks:**
 - DCFS Child Abuse/Neglect
 - Federal Background Check
 - National Criminal Background Check (reoccurring – twice a month)
 - a. Social Security Number Check
 - b. Sex Offender Registry
 - c. National Terrorist Watch List
- **Reference Checks:** two references called
- **Experience w/ Children Checks:** references from places they have either worked at or volunteered for, in the past 5 years, where children were involved
- **In-Person Interview:** a one hour interview intended to evaluate volunteers' appropriateness for the program held on campus

Expectations of Mentors

- Have an open, caring and friendly attitude
- Be comfortable with one-to-one mentoring in a group setting
- Be able to volunteer for the entire length of the program year
- Consistent attendance is required - missing no more than 20%
- Attend a New Mentor Training held on-site at the university
- Participate in bi-monthly match support with Program Coordinator
- Complete program evaluation surveys

Who, What, Where, When...

- **Day:** Every other Wednesday
- **Time:** 3:00 to 4:30 PM
- **Location:** Dominican University
- **University Partner:** Dominican University
- **University Liaison:** MaDonna Thelen, Director for Community-Based Learning
- **School Partner:** Emerson Elementary
- **School Liaison:** Mary Sturgill, Principal
- **Program Coordinator:** Ellen Greer

What Does It Cost?

- **Total Program Cost = \$25,000**
 - \$20K for Direct Program Cost
 - \$5K for Indirect Cost
- **Costs covered by BBBS and Dominican University**
- **Direct Program Costs include:**
 - Direct Program Staff who perform the following duties:
 - Recruitment (lunch & learns, rallies, school open house)
 - Volunteer Screening (background checks, reference checks, interviews)
 - Volunteer Orientation and Training
 - Program Development (activity planning/implementation/facilitation)
 - Case Management (supervision, monthly check-ins, match support)
 - Quality Assurance/Data Collection (surveys, report cards, evaluation, file audits, outcomes, ROI)
 - Program Expense (supplies, snacks, field trips)
 - Student Transportation (bus expense, stipend for school liaison)
 - General Liability Insurance
 - Group Activity/Events (match anniversaries, end of year celebration)
 - Travel (direct program staff travel)

- Corporate or Foundation Partner

Funding Source

Volunteer Source

- Dominican University
 - Mentors
 - Liaison

Program Source

University Based Mentoring Program

Youth Source

- Emerson Elementary School
 - Students
 - Liaison

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
 - Staff
 - Programming
 - Oversight
 - Recruitment
 - Volunteer Screening
 - Volunteer Orientation/Training
 - Child/Family Assessments
 - Transportation
 - Match Support
 - Quality Assurance
 - Customer Relations
 - Insurance
 - Evaluation
 - Reporting

Location

- Dominican University

MOU

- Defines Partners, Roles, Responsibilities
- Defines Framework
- Defines Logistics (day, time, place)
- Defines Terms
- Defines Expectations

Memorandum of Understanding

Questions?

