

Mentor Program at Spencer Park Primary School

It is often said that it takes a village to raise a child. At Spencer Park Primary School, we run a volunteer/mentor program where students are matched to an adult mentor to develop a relationship and then undertake various activities and projects.

Our mentors spend an hour each week with a child who needs a significant adult in their lives. Mentors work with kids during the school term to nurture and develop their self-esteem, getting to know them and encouraging them to work towards a better outlook of education and themselves.

The program provides the opportunity for the student to talk to an adult about concerns or issues that they wish to raise. As part of this discussion the adult provides advice, encouragement or sometimes just a listening ear.

Mentoring is very rewarding because you see the difference it makes in a little person's life. The children have our full attention for an hour and can share freely. We can be a listening ear; everyone needs to have a listening ear and be able to talk at different stages of their life.
- Vanessa K



Who can be a Mentor?

Anyone who has an interest in nurturing and developing a student's self-esteem can be a mentor?

- Do you have a special skill or interest that you can share with a student?
- Do you have an hour each week to work with a student who needs a significant adult in their life?
- Are you able to support our reading program by sharing the joy of reading or listening to a student read?

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions then you could be a mentor.

I like seeing my mentor every Tuesday because we play games and she's fun.
- Cody H

What sort of activities and projects do our Mentors participate in?

At Spencer Park Primary School, the principal goal of the Mentor Program is for the student to develop a relationship with an adult that will nurture and develop their self-esteem.

Our mentors participate in a variety of activities based on their own personal strengths. Some mentors sing and play games with their student, others complete woodworking projects. Some of our mentors join in and support our reading programs or share a personal interest, such as sewing, craft or cooking.

I enjoy working with individual students. As we develop mutual trust and respect, it is satisfying to know you are helping improve a young life. There is reward in assisting children to achieve manual activities, thereby developing their confidence and self esteem.
- Geoff B



I had a mentor for most of my last year at Spencer Park Primary School. Her name was Carolyn. She was a lovely person who was kind, talkative and friendly. I enjoyed our time together. We met once a week for one hour.

Depending on which room was available we would do a variety of things. We did cooking and craft mainly. It was great to talk while we kept our hands busy cooking or making things. Sometimes we would talk about things that might have been worrying me and at other times we would just talk about our days. I always felt good at the end of our sessions and that it was all worthwhile.

With one mentor she took me out to the beach on my birthday. It was a good time. It was fun watching her face screw up when she was given coffee cake instead of caramel cake like she ordered. I mean, who likes coffee cake?!

The mentoring I had has always been a nice memory.
- Toni-Marie B



Spencer Park Primary School



Mentor Program

Interested in joining our Mentor Program?

All mentors require a Working with Children's card and must complete the Department of Education's screening process prior to commencing in a school. This is something that we can help you organise.

If you would like to get involved, please telephone our School Chaplain or Principal on 08 6821 3000.



Spencer Park Primary School

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