

MATCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE VOLUNTEER:

- Statements made by the volunteer about the volunteer's desire for a type of client, including preferences regarding religion, race, age, client family lifestyle and type or extent of problem behavior of client;
- Geographic location;
- Skill levels of volunteer;
- Interests and hobbies; and
- Overall personality.

FOR THE CLIENT:

- Statements made by the parent/guardian about volunteer's religious, racial, age and cultural background preferences;
- Geographic location;
- Identified needs of client for adult intervention;
- Interests and hobbies; and
- Overall personality.

MATCH DETERMINATION:

- Similarity of proposed match participants;
- Compatibility of values and attitudes;
- Mutuality of interests; and
- Geographic proximity (a potential key to the success and longevity of a match).

Courtesy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

TIPS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE MATCHING PROCESS

Considerations Prior to Matching

- Comprehensive assessments of families, clients and volunteers.
- Awareness of one's own stereotypes and assumptions.
- An interviewer trained in dealing with diversity.

Parental Approval

- At each step of the standard screening process.

Common Interests

- Vocational, educational and recreational.

Goals for the Client

- Educational enrichment, self-esteem enhancement, cultural enrichment, family and peer relationship improvement.

Backgrounds

- Childhood upbringing, culture, religion.

Life Experiences

- Absence of parent in household, growing up as the oldest child in a large family, death of a parent, raised by a grandparent.

Expressed Preferences

- Race, gender, culture, sexual orientation, age.

Acceptance of Cross-Gender or Alternative Types of Matching

- Agreement by volunteer, youth and parent/guardian.

Strengths and Weaknesses of Volunteer and Client

- Personality types, academic level, open-mindedness, energy level.

Client and Volunteer Willingness and Ability to Travel

- If the program is community-based, will the volunteer pick up the child at the home? Is the child able to travel alone? Are the client and volunteer within a reasonable, commutable distance?

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