

Big Buddy Mentoring Parent Information

Primary Project 'Big Buddy' mentoring programme is designed to support primary aged children with the development of positive self-worth, and self-management, social and communication skills needed to thrive.

Salt Community Trust has youth workers placed in five local primary schools. Most of their time is spent supporting groups of 2-4 learners at a time, for sessions of 25-45min. Learners may be seen weekly, fortnightly or monthly depending on the youth worker's case load. Youth workers also interact with learners in their breaks, support staff with class activities and join in with school wide activities.

By providing a consistent presence within a school, youth workers collaborate and partner with the school to provide mentoring and support that is fun, energetic and NZ curriculum based – to support the development of positive life-long skills.

All our youth workers are police vetted, have undertaken child protection training, and take part in regular professional development in areas such as emotional regulation, building resilience and trauma informed practice.

In conjunction with classroom teachers, school senior leadership identify learners who would benefit from additional support. Your learner may attend the Big Buddy mentoring programme as a participant or a buddy. Buddies take part as a support peer to participants, and our feedback shows that they also benefit from the programme.



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Last year we asked staff to share any positive changes they have noticed or been told of in relation to learners taking part in the Primary Project 'Big Buddy' mentoring programme. Here are a few of the many positive responses we received -

- More confident in themselves, making positive new friendships, a happy time for them.
- Improved communication skills both with peers and coming to me as the teacher.
- The youth workers have done amazing work with some of the tamariki in my class to support their emotional regulation. They have massively developed their interpersonal skills (sharing, cooperating, compromising), and it has helped them build confidence in social settings - this has been so valuable!
- Greater empathy towards peers.
- The students that see the youth workers have benefited from this time with them so, so much!! You can see the way the kids light up when they are with them and the way they are able to have dedicated time for just them. The feedback from our whole staff has been that it has made such a difference in the classroom and school environment. It has been incredible to see.
- It's something they look forward to during the week, someone they can chat to and talk about problems (another outlet, rather than it all being in the classroom).
- I am seeing improvements in resilience and confidence.
- Our tamariki love going out to spend quality time with peers and their big buddy. It gives them time to connect and talk about things on their mind.



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Dear _____,

We'd like to invite _____ to be part of the Primary Project 'Big Buddy' mentoring programme that takes place on _____ for approximately 25-45 minutes each week/fortnight/month.

This programme endeavours to connect participants and their peer buddies with a mentor who will support them with developing essential life skills.

The Youth Worker that your learner will be paired with is: _____.



Big Buddy Mentoring Permission Slip

If you consent to your child being part of the Big Buddy mentoring programme, please sign below.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____