

Other features of the Peer Support Program

- Staff delivered Peer Support
- Support Groups
- Trained Peer Consultants
- Outreach to hospitals, rehabilitation centers, activity centers, and county boards of developmental disabilities
- Ohio Benefit Bank site

Mission of Services for Independent Living, Inc.

Provide consumer-driven services and advocacy which empower individuals with disabilities to lead self-directed and inclusive lives in the community.

Big Peer/ Little Peer Program

A program of



.....A feature of SIL's Peer Support
Program



About the Program

One of Services for Independent Living, Inc.'s (SIL) core services is Peer Support. SIL is excited to be expanding its Peer Support Program to include a Big Peer/Little Peer Program.

What is it?

SIL's Big Peer/Little Peer Program is designed to give youth with disabilities between the ages of 12 and 19 an opportunity to be mentored by an adult with a disability. It also encourages independence.

Who are Littles?

Any youth with a disability in Cuyahoga, Lake, or Geauga Counties who desire to share experiences and feelings in a mentoring relationship can be assessed for the program. A parent or guardian must accompany the Little for the assessment.

During this assessment, the needs, desires, and goals of the youth will be established. If determined appropriate for the program, the parent or guardian must sign a consent form for his/her child to participate. SIL staff will then match him/her with an appropriate Big.

Who are Bigs?

Bigs are adults with disabilities who have a desire to volunteer to be a mentor for a youth with disabilities. Bigs will be interviewed, asked to participate in a background check, and participate in a training. The training covers the Independent Living philosophy and techniques and ideas for working with youth with disabilities.

Bigs will initiate phone calls and meetings when possible with Littles. Bigs will be asked to complete a form after each conversation, E-mail, or meeting with their Littles and submit it to SIL.

What else is involved?

SIL will offer monthly group meetings for Bigs and Littles to share and learn about Independent Living. The meetings will be at SIL's office.

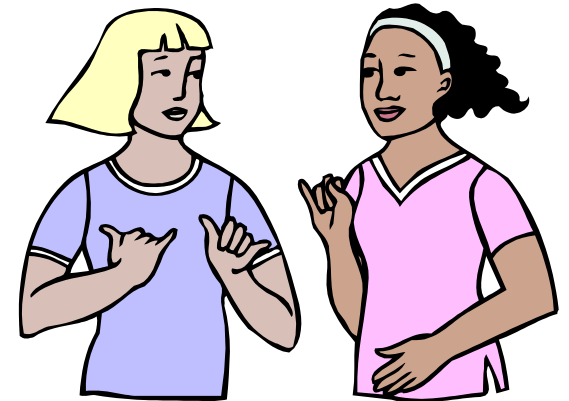
Some topics discussed may include:

- Social media etiquette
- Managing bullying
- Basic home maintenance
- Community resources
- Basic money management

- Coping with peer pressure
- Kitchen safety
- Clothing maintenance
- Managing personal assistance services
- Relationships
- Recreation
- And much more!

How to get involved

If you or your child would like to participate in SIL's Big Peer/Little Peer Program, please contact Lisa Marn at (216) 731-1529 or contact her via E-mail at lmarn@sil-oh.org.



Contact Us

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