



THE BIG UPDATE SUPPORTER EDITION

Big Brothers
Big Sisters
OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

JANUARY 2023

JANUARY IS MENTORING MONTH

We're celebrating Mentoring Month by posting about how mentoring makes a difference on our social media. YOU can get involved by signing up to be a "Big" or In-School Mentor (it's not too late)! Please help us **spread the word** about the work we do, the importance of mentoring, and our need for volunteers. If you share our social media and tell people about your connection with BBBS, it will help us expand our reach to more Island children & youth!



TEEN MENTORING PROGRAM

The first semester of Teen Mentoring is coming to a close. We had **120 teen mentors** matched with younger students. DYK? We provide each school with totes filled with board games, card games, and colouring & craft materials so the teens have lots of options for activities with their "Littles." If you have gently used board games or decks of cards you no longer need, we would love to put them to good use in our Teen boxes. Our staff is getting ready to begin Teen Mentoring with a new batch of Teens & "Littles" for second semester

MEET & GREET & TREATS

We will be hosting a meeting of "Bigs" and In-School Mentors in mid-January. We hope bringing the mentors together will allow them to share tips, successes and highlight the challenges they are experiencing so we can make these developmental relationships the best they can be.



CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

We want to thank our regular, new & monthly donors who support families at Christmas. Their generosity made Christmas a little easier for **9 families**. A big thank you to all who donated!

BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE LAUNCHES THIS MONTH!

Planning is well underway for Bowl for Kids Sake, which launches January 23! The dates are March 18th & 19th in Charlottetown, Summerside & North Rustico. After 3 years, we are so excited to be back! If you would like to **register a team** or volunteer at the event, please contact us at: lisa.jenkins@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca. We would love to have you join us for this great event!

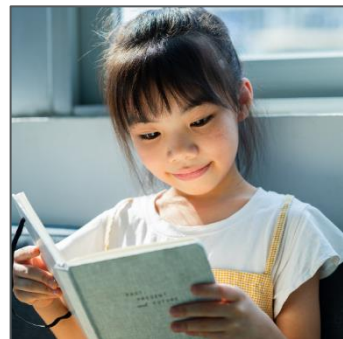


LITERACY FOR LITTLES

To celebrate their 50th Anniversary, the Bookmark made donations to a number of Island charities, including BBBSPEI. We are using their generous donation to strengthen our [Literacy Building Initiative](#). Each year, we try to send each "Little" home from the Christmas party with at least ten books. Giving children & youth books helps them develop a love of reading and learning, and it helps their families to build up that very important literacy library. This donation will help provide our "Littles" with books for years to come.

BBBS READS ALOUD

In late December, we strengthened our Literacy Building Initiative with the newly launched [BBBS Reads Aloud Program](#). "Littles" can participate in a virtual read aloud with Lisa, who is a newly retired teacher and our Special Events & Projects person. Littles, their Bigs and their families can join a virtual meeting and enjoy an interactive read aloud experience. The whole point is to simply enjoy the reading experience, stress free.



WHY DO KIDS NEED BOOKS? According to The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance "Books help kids develop basic language skills and profoundly expand their vocabularies—much more than any other media. Books are interactive; they demand that kids think." To read the whole article, head to:

<https://thencbla.org/advocacy/why-do-kids-need-books/>

PINTEREST

Did you know? We have a Pinterest page packed with tons of great activity ideas perfect for mentors, families & volunteers! Check it out for Crafts, STEM, Cooking with Kids & much more at: <https://www.pinterest.ca/bbbspei/>.

WHY READ ALOUD TO A CHILD? "Put simply, because books are full of words! Research has demonstrated that a well-developed vocabulary has been linked to better school performance. Reading aloud is great for vocabulary development". For the rest of the article & a list of 50 books you can read to the little ones in your life:

<https://childhood101.com/chapter-books-read-aloud/>



We hope that you had a restful and happy holiday season filled with good food & time spent with family and friends. Happy New Year and all the best in 2023!



CONTACT US:

Call: 902-569-5437 (1-877-411-3729) or email: info@bbbspei.ca