

# FUTURE MATTERS



*Reasoning*



*Problem-Solving*



*Work Habits*



*Intellectual Curiosity*



*Academic Integrity*



*Academic Behaviors*

Every week, you clear your schedule, you leave your phone in the car, and you remember to arrive at school with an idea or two about how to spend the time with your mentee that day. You make every effort to be fully present to one special child and supply the best “in the moment” mentoring you can. Still, you can’t help but wonder, from time to time, about what will become of your mentee beyond the moment – not just next week or this summer, but in the long-term.

Because we believe that the children we serve are full of promise, we want to do our best to support you in helping your mentee reach his/her potential. Not surprisingly, we learned that we are not the only ones thinking about this topic. Some best practices have been gathered into a book which has been adopted by our state, the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards.

The book includes six over-arching cognitive skills, or thinking skills, that can be taught not only in the classroom but also in other venues...like mentoring sessions! We believe that they can be taught through many of the low-key activities you do with your mentee for fun... or in the life lessons – both easy and hard – that are the “stuff” of your mentoring conversations.

To introduce these skills along with recommended activities geared to certain ages, we will be sending you a second publication (besides *Mentor Minute*) called *Future Matters*. Each issue will feature one of the six skills. The newsletter will also alert you to other methods and deadlines for maximizing school opportunities, such as applications for magnet programs or encouragements to offer your mentee during the season of choice sheets (course selection for the following year). We hope that by providing this kind of just-in-time information, you will be able to engage your mentee in an age-appropriate activity designed to lower barriers to success and optimize strengths.

**Sneak preview:** The six cognitive skills are Reasoning, Problem-Solving, Work Habits, Intellectual Curiosity, Academic Integrity, and Academic Behaviors.

Watch your inbox for the first edition of *Future Matters* during the week of November 9 on the topic of Intellectual Curiosity.