

Holiday Considerations Resource Guide

The holiday season is a special but busy time for mentors, youth, and families. This guide offers helpful reminders to navigate common situations during this time of year.

1. Children Asking for Gifts

The holidays often inspire gift-giving, and it's natural for children to ask their mentors for presents. While this is well-intentioned, it's essential to handle these requests with care:

- **Agency Gift Distribution:** Our agency is providing gifts to families who sign up. Check with your mentee's caregiver to see if they're enrolled in this program.
 - **Alternative Celebrations:** Instead of gift-giving, focus on shared experiences like crafting, baking, or playing games. These activities create lasting, meaningful memories.
 - **Reach Out for Guidance:** If you feel uncertain or have concerns, your coordinator is here to help you navigate these moments.
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2. Reunifications or Movements

The holiday season often coincides with reunifications or changes in placements. Here's how to stay adaptable and supportive:

- **Be Flexible:** If your mentee shares updates about reunifications or transitions, notify your coordinator right away.
 - **Plan to Stay Connected:** Unless directed otherwise, plan to continue your mentoring relationship. We'll provide ongoing resources to help you maintain a strong bond during this time.
 - **Support During Transitions:** For children in reunification or movement processes, the holidays can bring extra emotions. Lean on your coordinator for guidance to ensure smooth transitions for everyone involved.
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3. Busy Schedules

The holiday season can make coordinating schedules more challenging for both mentors and youth. Stay proactive to avoid potential conflicts:

- **Plan Ahead:** Share your availability and any schedule changes with your mentee's caregiver early.

- **Communicate Regularly:** Keep your coordinator informed about transitions, delays, or challenges during the holidays.
- **Focus on Connection:** When time is limited, prioritize quality moments over quantity. A quick video call or letter can go a long way in showing your mentee you care.
- **We're Here to Help:** Your coordinator is always available to provide support, answer questions, or help with scheduling concerns.