

Match Ground Rules



Children have a right to always feel safe. Appropriate and positive interactions between Bigs and Littles are essential for positive youth development and building a safe and rewarding friendship.

Purpose of Ground Rules:

- 1) To keep children safe;
 - 2) To help promote healthy relationship between Bigs and Littles;
 - 3) To protect volunteers against allegations of harm;
 - 4) To help a child recognize appropriate boundaries and learn the skills to prevent victimization.
- A. Interactions between Bigs and Littles—the following behaviors are regarded as incompatible with the program goals, value, and standards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado and are therefore considered unacceptable and prohibited.
- 1) Inappropriate physical contact including:
 - a. Prolonged and/or excessive hugging, tickling, wrestling, pushing, touching, patting, and pinching, even in a playful manner.
 - b. Asking or allowing a Little to sit on a Big's lap regardless of age or circumstances.
 - 2) Inappropriate limit setting/discipline including:
 - a. Corporal or physical punishment of any kind.
 - b. Physical or verbal threats or intimidation of any kind.
 - c. Any physical, verbal, visual, or behavioral mannerisms or conduct that denigrates, insults, or humiliates any individual.
 - d. Any physical altercation or display of violent or aggressive behavior.
 - 3) Demeaning or exploitive behavior of either a sexual or nonsexual nature – including threats of such behavior:
 - a. Discussing or displaying demeaning, suggestive, or pornographic materials.
 - b. Display or discussion of materials of a sexual nature including but not limited to viewing pornography or sexually suggestive materials.
 - 4) Over-involvement with Little or Little's family:
 - a. Gift Buying – must be approved in advance by parent and by agency staff; parent instructed to notify staff when gift or excessive nature given.
 - b. Monetary donations or donations for services by Big to child's family is discouraged; must be discussed and approved by agency first.
 - c. Excessive contact over agreed upon schedule is discouraged; must be discussed with agency staff.
 - d. Involvement of other children on outings – must be discussed in advance with agency staff.
 - 5) Drugs, Alcohol, Firearms
 - a. Volunteers will not consume alcoholic beverages prior to or during match activities.
 - b. Possession or use of a controlled drug (including marijuana and alcohol) are not permitted on outings with a Little present.
 - c. A volunteer who owns or has firearm(s) in home or vehicle must inform BBBSC and provide assurance that the ammunition and firearm(s) are inaccessible to child. Firearms are not permitted in the vehicle when a Little is present.
 - d. A volunteer whose profession presents special conditions around firearms or requires the volunteer to carry a firearm on his/her person must inform the organization and discuss the circumstances around these conditions.
 - 6) Transportation

- a. Volunteers are required to follow state law requirements about seat belts and child safety seats: Littles are required to wear seat belts at all times when being transported by Bigs. (See back.)
 - b. Volunteers must obey all traffic laws when transporting Littles and are required to be especially vigilant and safety conscious at all times when the Little is in the car.
 - c. Volunteers may not allow family members (their friends, partners, or relatives) to transport Little in a car.
 - d. While transporting children, volunteers are prohibited from texting and using cell phones.
 - e. Volunteers are restricted from transporting Littles out of state without prior written approval from the agency.
 - f. Volunteers must require Littles to wear helmets when bike riding.
- 7) Medical Procedures
- a. Emergency medical treatment procedures:
 - i. Volunteer should use good judgment if a situation calls for emergency medical treatment. If the situation allows, volunteers should contact the parent to determine course of action. If the parent cannot be reached or the situation is urgent, treatment shall be sought at the closest medical facility.
 - ii. Volunteers shall carry the parent authorization card (membership card) for medical treatments for the Little during all match activities.
 - b. Volunteer must notify the BBBSC Program Specialist about any medical emergency as soon as possible.
- 8) Communication/Parental Approval of Activities
- a. Parent/Guardian must be informed of and approve all activities in advance.
 - b. Volunteer must discuss with parent/guardian the details of the scheduled activity including pick-up and drop-off time; designated person in home at time of drop-off; necessity of feeding Little before being picked up; appropriate dress for the occasion.
 - c. Respect for parents/guardians must always be demonstrated.
 - d. Communication must always be open between match parties and agency staff.
- 9) Overnights
- a. Overnights are NOT allowed at any time in any of the BBBSC mentoring programs.
- 10) Activities in the Home
- a. Home visits are activities in the volunteer's home are strictly prohibited for the first three months of the match and until qualifying criteria is met.
- 11) Privacy/Respect of Personal Space
- a. Volunteer shall respect Little's privacy and personal space at all times and be vigilant about establishing a comfortable atmosphere when interacting with their Little.
 - b. Bathrooms – Volunteer will provide Little with privacy and wait outside the bathroom stall or the bathroom door when Little uses the bathroom in public places.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT ANY OF THE GROUND RULES, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PROGRAM SPECIALIST.

Colorado Child Passenger Safety Law

Current Colorado Child Passenger Safety Law can be found at: www.codot.gov/safety/carseats/colorado-child-passenger-safety-law-1