

### **Bringing Closure to Your Tutoring/Mentoring Relationship**

If you develop close ties with a mentee over time, it may be difficult for both of you to sever them. Anticipate this possibility and plan for it by trying the following techniques:

- Make clear to your mentee that you are not ending your service because of any action on his/her part, but because your cycle is ending.
- If you can predict the last day of your tutoring experience, share that information at least a few weeks in advance so it will not come as a surprise to your student. This is especially important with younger students or those who have experienced a good deal of transience in their lives and may therefore feel abandoned easily.
- Consider creating a memento of your time together. For example, draw a picture together and write them a note on it.
- Please do not give gifts unless you are giving one to every child in the room, so as to avoid the appearance of favoritism or grooming, and to avoid other children feeling left out. A card or letter is perfectly fine. If you are not sure about what is appropriate, feel free to reach out to the Volunteer Coordinator or Program Director.

**\*\*Do not underestimate the significance that even these small gestures can have in marking the end of your time with your mentee, even if he/she may not show his/her appreciation in dramatic ways. \*\***

### **Reflecting Beyond the Tutoring Experience**

#### **Questions to think about:**

- What have I learned about children's developmental needs, interests, and attitudes from my tutoring experience that will inform my future interactions and relationships with children and people in general?
- How will my awareness of academic and social-emotional issues inspire me learn more about public education/community-based service organizations?
- In what ways might systems have to change in order to better serve the needs of students such as my mentee better in the future?