

# KINSHIP LUNCH BUDDY MENTORING

In the Kinship Lunch Buddy Mentoring Program, a Kinship match will spend the student's lunch time together. They will eat lunch and then either play a game, read a book or just sit and talk. The time together may include help with academics but at all times the focus will be the fostering of a caring and supportive friendship. The objective of the Lunch Buddy Mentoring Program is to improve a child's social skills and self-esteem in order to foster a better attitude for learning; ultimately improving school success. Mentors may bring a sack lunch or purchase a meal through the food service program. Mentors meet with their lunch buddy each week for the school year. If you need to miss a week or change which day you regularly meet with the child, you will need to contact the school office so they can inform your lunch buddy.

Kinship of Tomahawk is currently in partnership with the Tomahawk Elementary School and Tomahawk Middle School. In order for youth (little buddies) to become involved in this program they must be in the Kinship Program or parents must fill out a child application giving their permission for their child to participate in the Lunch Buddy Program. The number of matches may be limited so the school/Kinship staff may need to prioritize which students would benefit most from having a mentor.

Kinship carefully screens all adults who are interested in being lunch buddy mentors (big buddies). Screening includes a volunteer application, three reference checks, an interview, and background check. Upon acceptance, the Kinship Coordinator identifies a good match based primarily on lunch times and interests.

Once matched, the Kinship Match Coordinator works closely with teachers, mentors and parents to ensure the growth of a healthy, lasting friendship.

If interested in becoming a Lunch Buddy Mentor, please fill out the attached application packet and return it to the Kinship House or mail it to Kinship of Tomahawk, PO Box 653, Tomahawk WI 54487.

Any questions, feel free to contact the Kinship Office (715) 453-1910 or email [kinshiptomahawk@hotmail.com](mailto:kinshiptomahawk@hotmail.com).