



## CLOSURE

At some point all mentoring relationships will come to an end, whether it is because the program is over, because the mentor is moving, or for some other reason. It is critical that this stage not be overlooked. Youth today have many adults come and go in their lives. Very rarely are they provided the opportunity to say goodbye properly.

### For closure of the mentoring relationship:

- 1. Identify natural emotions, such as grief, denial, and resentment.**
  - Help your mentee to express his or her emotions by modeling the behavior.
  - For example, if your relationship is coming to a close and you and your mentee enjoyed your time together, you might say something like “I am going to really miss you. I have enjoyed our time together.”
  - Be honest. If your relationship is coming to a close and your time together was all right but not great, then don’t lie and say that you are going to be sad that this is over.
  - Do not expect the young person to reciprocate. Your mentee might not feel comfortable sharing his or her emotions.
  
- 2. Provide options for saying goodbye in a healthy, respectful, and affirming way.**
  - Don’t wait until the last meeting to say goodbye. Make sure you start addressing this issue as soon as you know the relationship will be coming to a close.
  - Consider providing a final celebratory meeting or event with the mentor and mentee upon match closure to commemorate the relationship.
  
- 3. Address appropriate situations for staying in touch with your mentee.**
  - Check with your program coordinator to see what the policy is for staying in touch with your mentee.
  - With program permission, it is up to you, your mentee, and your mentee’s parent/guardian to determine if and how you will stay in touch.

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Courtesy of Mentoring Partnership of Long Island, *The ABC’s of Mentoring*.