



Mentor Connect Handbook

VBEC
3404 N. Ben Wilson St., Victoria, TX 77901
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www.vbectx.org

The Starfish Flinger

As an old man walked a beach at dawn, he noticed
A young man ahead of him picking up starfish and
Flinging them into the sea

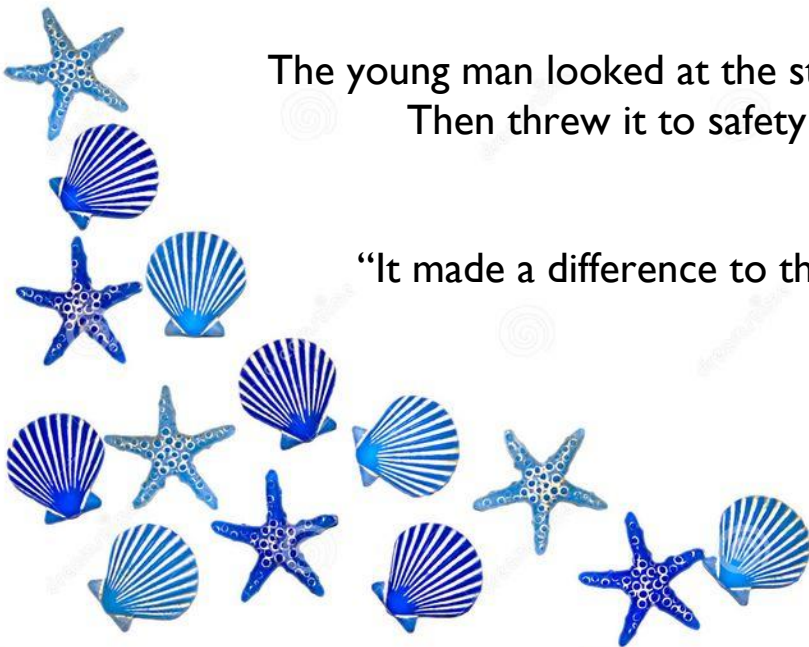
Finally catching up with the young man, he asked him why
He was doing this. The answer was that the stranded
Starfish would die if left until the morning sun.

“but the beach goes on for miles and there are millions
Of starfish,” countered the other. “How can your effort
Make any difference?”

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and
Then threw it to safety in the waves.

“It made a difference to that one,” he said.

- Minnesota Literacy Council



WHAT IS A MENTOR?

Definition: An instructor, encourager, advocate, and guide. This can also be called a coach, friend, tutor, and teacher.

Mentors' Role:

- Work with the student on the lesson plan given by the teacher.
- Record meaningful comments on the lesson plan for the teacher to review.
- Be positive, friendly, and supportive of your student so they can feel good about themselves and what they're doing.
- Ask questions and discuss concerns with the Mentor Lab teacher.
- Be faithful in attendance.
- Enjoy the experience!
- Respect the student you work with and others in the classroom. Keep information about the students confidential.

What is Mentor Connect?

- It is a structured academic mentoring program for reading readiness, math, and language arts.
- This program originated in 1971 by Bill Gibbons and was called HOST and has been in the Victoria community since 2001.
- Mentor Connect provides individual help by using community adults and college students to volunteer to mentor a child.

Each student's learning needs are carefully analyzed and diagnosed to target areas necessary for the child to be successful in school. Independent research studies show students in mentor programs gains are often more than twice the national average of students outside such programs.

Helpful Hints for Successful Mentoring

- Take time to get acquainted
- Always tell the student what you want to accomplish in the session.
- Set your sights high for the students and he/she will respond.
- Have confidence the student can learn.
- Help keep your student on task.
- Get students to relate what they are learning to their own life experiences.
- Give positive praise. Why this is so important:
 - Catches them doing something right at the moment.
 - They learn that they are competent.
 - Learn to accept praise of themselves and to praise others.
- Let the student know it is alright to make mistakes.
- Ask students how they think they did or to evaluate their own answers.
- Write comments on their lessons they worked on how the session went that day.

Words of Praise

Wonderful
You're special
Well done!
Fantastic!

Way to go!
Outstanding!
You are getting better....
You are catching on!

That's incredible
Good job!
Super!
What a good listener





Procedures for Sessions

1. Sign in at the front office.
2. Put on your name tag and walk to the classroom.
3. Sit with your student and the desk assigned. Mentors sit on the left side of the student.
4. Visit with the student and ask about their day.
5. Review student's work that needs to be completed and assist the student.
6. After session is over, remind your student to place school work where it needs to go and to perform well in the classroom.

We thank you for your time with this student!



Contact information

Please remember that we are here to make your experience as a mentor, enriching and positive for you and your student. If you have any concerns or questions feel free to ask for assistance at any time.

VBEC

Peter McNally – Program Manager

(361)648-7248 – cell number

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Campus Workdays and Holidays 2018-2019

Professional Development/Work Days	
<i>Campus Workday/PD</i>	October 19
<i>Campus workday/pd</i>	January 3
<i>District Strand Day</i>	January 4
<i>District PLC</i>	February 18
<i>Campus Workday/PD</i>	March 8
<i>Last Day of School</i>	May 23
<i>Campus Workday</i>	May 24

School holidays	
<i>Labor Day</i>	September 3
<i>Student Holiday</i>	October 19
<i>Fall break</i>	Nov. 19-23
<i>Thanksgiving day</i>	Nov. 22
<i>Winter break</i>	Dec.20- Jan. 4
<i>Christmas day</i>	December 25
<i>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. day</i>	January 21
<i>Spring break</i>	March 8-15
<i>Good Friday</i>	April 19
<i>Memorial day</i>	May 27

Bad weather make up days	
February 18 or May 24	

