

Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Introduction	v
Mentoring	1
Why Mentoring	1
Operation of Mentor Programs	7
Examples of Interview Questions to Students	13
One Example of Student Interview	15
Sample Student Information and Registration Form	18
Monitoring: Sample Form Mentor Evaluation.....	26
Mentoring—Suggested Approaches for Mentors	27
Monitoring: Sample Form Student Evaluation	28
Mentoring Outcomes	29
Monitoring: Sample Form Parents/Caregivers.....	30
Mentor Student Database	31
References	33

Introduction

– exposure to a mentor who is willing to share personal values, a particular interest, time, talents and skills... the relationship can provide both mentor and student with encouragement, inspiration, new insights and other personal rewards. (Berger, 1990)

One very helpful initiative for students to reach significant achievement is a mentoring program. While mentoring is an important strategy to support novices in different contexts, for many students it can provide challenge as a catalyst for achievement. Overall the benefit of a mentoring program lies in the ways the minds of the students and mentors interact. The following pages outline the why and how of mentoring. The book aims to give the reader both a background insight and procedures to set up a program. For ease of reading, key words have been set in the margin. In addition there are pages that can be copied as overhead transparencies for use in staff development or mentor training or simply as reminders on noticeboards. It is useful to have the whole staff aware of and involved in any mentoring program to ensure that this ancient practice, since the times of Odysseus, can continue to be a successful means to encourage students to travel their own journeys to insightful lifelong learning.

Mentoring

Achievement at risk; motivation; disadvantage; affective and cognitive aspects of provision.

Inspiration and support for students in their endeavours are significant advantages of mentoring for students. A mentoring program makes real the chance for challenge and it matches the needs of the child to the opportunity rather than the other way around. Mentoring is a way of providing for gifted and talented students including those who may have background characteristics that can disadvantage them - when achievement of potential is AT RISK.

Why mentoring?

Mentoring and Motivation

The development of cognitive skills is also closely inter-related, and indeed, dependent upon the affective and social development of the learner. Positive self-concept and internal locus of control correlate highly with effective learning and the development of effective problem-solving behaviour. Moreover, the context in which the learner develops effective thinking skills must be relevant and meaningful, being derived from a cultural context through which the learner can identify positive values and principles (Wallace & Adams, 1993).

Being motivated is essential to achievement (Renzulli, 1986; Amabile, 1994; Richert, 1991). The aim is to increase chances to develop potential and satisfy learning needs. To