

A group of diverse children are smiling and posing for a photo at a playground. In the foreground, a young boy with curly hair and a blue and white striped shirt is smiling broadly. To his right, a young girl with long brown hair and a blue and white striped shirt is also smiling. In the background, several other children are visible, including a girl in a white tank top and a boy in a light blue shirt. The playground equipment, including a red slide and blue railings, is visible in the background. The entire image has a semi-transparent dark blue overlay.

Mentoring & Healthy Closure



Special thanks to Austin Water for
sponsoring this month's training!



To start, let's watch this [short video](#) of some of our very own Seedling mentees talking about how much their mentor means to them.

We understand that not all of you will have had the privilege of hearing your mentee share their feelings about mentoring with you, but we are sure your mentee would say something similar!

This is the reason saying so-long for the summer or sharing a meaningful goodbye is so important, they see you as a friend.

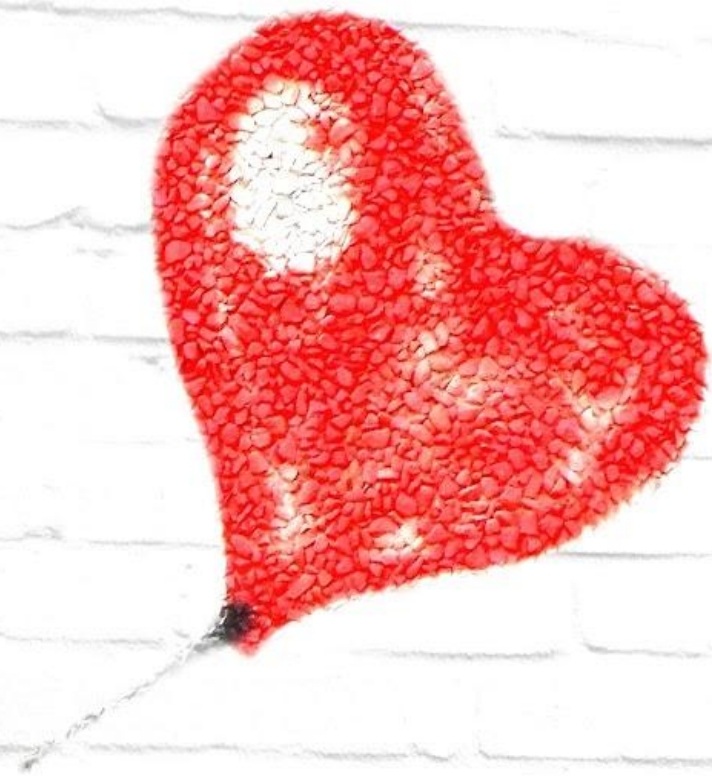


Mentor Relationship Closure is essential



Seedling encourages...

- ❑ A mini-closure for the summer months.
- ❑ Or when ready, a planned final goodbye.



We do not want our
mentees to
experience another
un-explained loss

It's not just you and your mentee in the relationship...

There are others involved-

Your School Contact- before you meet them, they interview teachers, staff, parents, to find the students who are eligible for our program. They devote time and effort in making your match. They check in with your mentee to make sure things are going well, and they are your point of contact at the school.

Your Mentee's Caregiver- is an important part of your relationship too. The caregiver gives permission for you to spend **individual time with their child!** They put their trust in Seedling and the school. They read and consider a two page consent form, and agree that strangers can have personal information about their family.

Seedling and your Mentor Director- are very invested in your relationship, we are your biggest cheerleaders.

We know mentoring relationships can end unexpectedly

- ❑ Changes in life circumstances
- ❑ Youth request
- ❑ Mentor request
- ❑ Gradually grow apart
- ❑ Mentor abandonment



But we can still take steps for a meaningful closure



The most painful goodbyes are the ones that
are never said and never explained.

The best closure with your mentee...

- ❑ Is planned
- ❑ Is open to expressing feelings
- ❑ Is clear
- ❑ Celebrates mentoring relationship & normalizes goodbye

How can you make your "so long" for the summer meaningful?

Check out our website for more!

[Seedling Website](#)

Under the "Current Mentors" tab, scroll down to the "End of Year" section to find resources.

Also in the Seedling
Mentor Minute

Planning for Closure

Closure Activities

Ensuring Healthy
Closure



How can you create a fun end of year closure for you and your mentee? One that leaves them with all the warm fuzzies and happy memories of the year? And the knowledge that they are special and wonderful human beings?

If you are closing for good, avoid the temptation ...

To promise to return next year

To share phone numbers

To say, “let’s keep in touch”



The magic of Seedling mentoring is not what the mentee learns from you, it's what the child learns about relationships by **interacting** with you. You are modeling relationship!



Even if you know what's coming, you're rarely prepared for how it feels. Take care of your feelings as well!



Share your experience with your Mentor Director or a friend. What has been the best part of your mentoring year?

THANK
you