

Closure Suggestions

The relationship that develops between students and tutors is like no other. A tutor is not only a mentor but a positive role model for their students. While feelings of sadness may arise as the school year is ending, it is beneficial for students and tutors to reflect on the progress they have made during the year, the activities they had done and their hopes for each other in the future.

Reviewing the Schedule: Outline how many sessions are left and what you will do together before the end of the year. Look at a calendar so your student can count how many sessions are left and prepare for the end of your time together.

Reflection: Reflect on any goals you had. Highlight successes that students had during the year. Reviewing the small steps a student has made to move forward even if they didn't achieve their overarching goal can help them gain confidence.

Activities: Plan a fun activity for the last day. Read a specific book before the end of the year. Revisit icebreaker activities you did in the beginning of the year and see how things have evolved over the year. Take a picture together. Place it on a piece of paper and write the student's accomplishments on the page as well. Ask the student to decorate the page and make a copy for each of you to take home.

Future Goals: Discuss ideas for next steps for the student's learning goals. Brainstorm fun educational activities they can do over the summer.

Goodbye Takeaways: Some volunteers like to give a goodbye takeaway to their student. This is completely optional. Some suggestions include the two of you together, a book, markers, crayons, a notebook. Please refrain from any large gifts.

Group Closure: Host an end of the year party for volunteers and students to celebrate their accomplishments. Ask the principal to attend and invite students and tutors to speak about their experience.

If you would like additional suggestions, please contact rshimshak@jrcrboston.org or explore ideas with your team leader.