

## PARENT INFORMATION

### Understanding the Kids Hope Mentoring Program

**Kids Hope is an early intervention, school-based mentoring program that has been operating in Australia since 2004.**

The program aims to **develop emotional and social resilience in children**, and so enhance their capacity to learn. The model is built on a long-term partnership between a local school and a local church.

**Carefully screened and trained mentors** from the church meet the children for one hour per week at the school. Over 20,000 children have been matched

with mentors in primary schools all around Australia. **The results show that Kids Hope changes lives.**

An evaluation by Griffith University concluded that, 'Kids Hope is reliable and easily implemented, the clear program of choice for many schools.

It is valued by parents and, most importantly, it is **making a difference to child wellbeing.**'

Kids Hope is a registered [ChildSafe](#) program and aims to meet or exceed national mentoring benchmarks.



**I'm so grateful to have a mentor. It's helped me cope with struggles with friends, home and school. It's helped me build more confidence and now I'm unstoppable. – Kids Hope Child**



### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How are mentors screened?

Mentors must undergo the state legislated checks for working with children. They also complete a comprehensive application, attend an interview and provide two references. The church leadership must also provide personal character references for each mentor.

#### How are mentors trained?

Kids Hope provides comprehensive, compulsory training for all program coordinators and mentors. Training topics include; child protection policies and guidelines, understanding children's needs, confidentiality and ages and stages in child development. Ongoing training and support is also provided for coordinators and mentors.

#### Why is my child referred to the program?

Children can be referred for many reasons. The decision to refer a child is made by a teacher, or wellbeing staff member, who believe that the child will greatly benefit from having an allocated mentor. Most parents are pleased to know that their child will receive additional support.

#### Where do the child and mentor meet?

The mentor meets with the child in an observable space within the school, as identified by the teacher or principal. The mentors don't work with the child in the classroom.

#### Is there any religious content in the mentoring session?

There is no religious content or materials used during the mentoring hour. The focus is purely on the social, academic and emotional development of the child through the mentoring relationship.

#### What do the mentor and child do together?

Mentors and children plan their time together to include things like craft, educational games, cooking, sport, reading or academic work set by teachers.

#### Will my child miss out on important work?

Teachers may provide resources for any academic work to be completed during the mentoring hour. This may be revision, a project or reading, spelling or maths.

### Can I contact my child's mentor?

You can contact the mentor through the school. Many Kids Hope programs conduct events at the school where parents can meet the mentors. You also can contact the school to arrange to meet the mentor.

### Will my child receive a mentor as soon as I give consent?

Mentors are carefully matched with students to gain the best outcomes. Your child will be matched with a mentor as soon as an appropriate mentor is screened and trained. Sometimes there is a waiting list for children to be matched with mentors.

### How do I tell my child about being referred to the Kids Hope mentoring program?

The opportunity to be included in the program should be communicated in a very positive way. Schools often say they wish every child had a mentor! You can describe the program as providing an adult friend who will play games and do activities with them and encourage them in everything they do at school.

### Is this program effective?

The Kids Hope program has been evaluated by Griffith University. Results show that mentored children have significant increases in self-esteem

and confidence. Children are better adjusted socially and emotionally, which in turn, can positively impact their academic progress at school.

### Code of Conduct for Mentors

**Kids Hope is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children in the program.** We support the rights of the child and will act to ensure a child-safe environment is maintained at all times.

We also support the rights and wellbeing of staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

### Mentors must:

- Be a positive role model.
- Follow Kids Hope policies and guidelines as described in the Child Protection Policy
- Ensure that they meet with the child in an observable space in the school.
- Treat all children with respect.
- Observe all Kids Hope training guidelines.
- Focus on skills and relationship building.
- Respect the privacy of the child and family by maintaining confidentiality.
- Not use any religious content or material



**I think it's a very crucial role that Kids Hope are playing in my kids' lives. Because I'm of a firm belief that it takes a community to raise a child. – Parent**



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