

## IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES TO SHARE

- Mentors who are working with youth on the elementary level can help them to stretch their imaginations with activities that use old magazines. Here are a few ideas, suggested by Scholastic Pre-K Today Magazine.
- “Me” collage. Ask youth to cut out pictures and phrases that describes their personalities and interests then glue them on poster board. Or, trace around the youth’s body or hands while he/she lies on butcher-block paper. Ask youth to cover their “bodies” with favorite pictures and phrases.
- “Who’s who?” poster. Ask older youth to cut out pictures of famous people (celebrities, political figures, etc.). Post a few at a time and encourage them to find out who each “mystery” person is and why he or she is famous.
- Picture stories. Have youth cut out a series of interesting pictures, mount each as a page in a “picture” book, and write lines to a story below. Or, ask them to create strange pictures by combining various ones from magazines. For example, someone might create a tree with jeweled rings hanging from its branches. Attach a sheet of paper and invite the youth to write the beginning sentence of a story, the mentor writes the next line, and so on, until both have added as many sentences as they want. The youth who made the picture can then add the ending. Make time to share your stories.
- Silly ads. Invite youth to come up with funny ads by mixing up pictures and phrases. Older youth can work individually or in small groups to create advertising campaigns for new products.
- Stationery and greeting cards. Youth can create their own special stationery with magazine pictures or make personalized note-cards by pasting down letters to spell their names.
- To make greeting cards, show youth how to fold pieces of construction paper in half, then glue on favorite pictures. Suggest that they cut out words and phrases to create messages inside. Watercolor post-cards can be found at art stores.
- Treasure hunt. Make a list of 10 things for youth to find in magazines, cut out and paste on paper. Some possible pictures to search for: something ugly, something old, an orange food, something that has a scent, a child with brown eyes.
- Mentors read with their mentees, take them to the school library, play games and talk.
- Play games with your youth. The mentor may feel guilty playing games because the mentee should be ‘learning’ something instead. A lot of learning does take place while

playing games – such as learning to obey rules and good sportsmanship as well as the fact that this game time may be one of the only times the youth has the undivided attention of an adult and that’s real special to them too.

- Hobbies or special areas of interest can be shared with youth. If music is the hobby, bring in the instrument and show them how to play a song or two.
- Give your youth one of your favorite articles or books to read, and discuss it. Ask for reactions first: what was appealing or boring about it, what was useful or irrelevant, and why. Talk about why the work is important to you, how it has influenced you, and what significance you feel it could have in your youth’s life.
- Write a book, bring family photo album to share, have lunch at school, draw, participate in “Shadow Day” activities on your job, make a video, play sports, learn to tell time, learn how to use a computer, plant a garden, learn a 100 words in another language, bring a game from home, or listen to music.
- Pick up a book of names and share the meaning of your youth’s name.
- Ask your youth to keep a diary of work activities for a week, and analyze it. S/he should do a first analysis, looking at what the diary says about where s/he is putting her energy, what s/he enjoys and what s/he would like to be rid of.
- Make a video
- Write a book
- Design a perfect paper airplane
- Learn to tell time
- Learn how to use a computer
- Plant a garden
- Master a game you’ve never played
- Identify the birds, plants and trees in your yard
- Make a boat that floats
- Learn how to use a camera
- Build a castle out of sugar cubes
- Learn 100 words in another language