



## **Mentor Eligibility Criteria**

1. Must be at least 18 years of age
2. Have a viable means of transportation (if that means transportation is an automobile, the mentor must have a valid driver's license and minimum levels of insurance as prescribed by state law and agency's insurance carrier)
3. A mentor must possess the following attributes:
  - a. Reasonable stable adjustment home life
  - b. Appropriate motivation for service
  - c. Ability to maintain an agreed upon time commitment
  - d. Reasonable tolerance to lifestyles different from their own
  - e. Interest in and ability to work with children
  - f. Respect for the safety of children
  - g. Reasonable adjustment to community
  - h. Reasonable mental and emotional stability
  - i. Healthy balance of age appropriate activities and interests
  - j. Stable adjustment in vocation or work situation
  - k. Ability to maintain meaningful relationships with others
4. Have a home environment suitable and stable for a child
5. Relate appropriately to Lakeland staff, agree to work within guidelines and follow rules and policies
  - a. Must fill out a background check form and Mentor Application
  - b. Volunteer must supply the staff with names of three references that are not related to the volunteer
  - c. Interview will take place in mentor's home
  - d. If other individuals are living in the home, a staff person from Lakeland will meet with them and find out their feelings about the Mentor program
  - e. Home assessment must be complete and clear
  - f. Must agree to be in contact with the Lakeland Mentoring Program Coordinator
6. If necessary, Lakeland staff will gather additional information from other sources

Upon meeting these Eligibility Criteria, all of the information about a potential volunteer is gathered, copied, and delivered to the members of the screening committee (3 or 4 members of the Lakeland Board of Directors). The committee reviews the information and decides whether or not to accept the volunteer as a mentor. Staff will then inform the volunteer of the committee decision.

A volunteer who has been accepted into the program will be trained and then placed on the waiting list until a suitable match is found.