



Preparing for the Ending at the Beginning

When a match ends, it's only natural for both mentor and mentee to feel a sense of loss. Newer research indicates that the way a match ends may be as important as any other quality present during the match.

Resolve now to stay in touch with your Mentor Director or your School Contact about your relationship. Rely on this source of support by reporting your successes and concerns, by seeking assistance when trouble issues come up, by expressing your own feelings about the match, and by giving the longest possible notice if you anticipate your match will end.

Plan now to resume your visits right after the winter break so that your mentee does not feel uncertainty or sadness about whether you are returning (but call first in case your mentee's family has extended their break or the child has become ill).

In late spring we encourage everyone to talk about the coming fall semester with his/her mentee. While you both may be eager to continue, we recommend that you have a "mini-closure" activity or celebration before you part ways for the summer. This ensures closure in the event one of you is not available in the fall, ensuring a positive end to the relationship. Watch for resources in the Mentor Minute!