# 2005 Big Logo (b&W) crop

## Mentoring a Talitha Koum Child

Talitha Koum Nurture Center is a mental health therapeutic nursery. All of the children who attend Talitha Koum and then move on into school are now and have been living in deep, multi-generational urban poverty and its circumstances that often lead to violent interactions (either in or around the home) and various forms of chaos and neglect that affect a child’s self-esteem and mental health.

The child you would mentor has had the care of Talitha Koum for some period of time. During that time, Talitha Koum has been the child’s one safe support he or she could count on every day in every way. Here, they received nurture, nutrition, an evidence-based cognitive curriculum (HighScope®), 3 ½ hours per day of sensory modulation activities, and psychological services (generally, play therapy with a Psy.D. intern). In short, they receive the brain development needed in order to bring them to Kindergarten able to self-regulate and ready to learn from the calm-alert state. And their parents have most likely participated in our weekly Parents Meeting.

It is our deep belief, that the start with Talitha Koum will launch children who can learn and succeed in school and in life. Yet, it is also our firm conviction that this future success ~ considering the ongoing stressors at home ~ is far more likely if the child leaves our care with a Mentor who will act to stand in the gaps, to strengthen the good work that has gone before ~ through a relationship of caring.

Because this is such a serious undertaking, and because our children are fragile in their hold to self-esteem ~ and because YOU and your life’s joy are important to us ~ we are careful in discerning whether or not your mentoring a child of deep poverty will benefit both parties. Please know, then, that the application questions that follow are *not* meant to judge your character, but to bring to both you and us a measure of certainty that you will be well suited to Mentoring in this particular situation.

## Tell us how a Mentoring relationship fits your gifts and personal characteristics. What, in other words, do you believe you have to offer a child as his/her Mentor? (Do *not* be shy! We all have gifts and fine qualities. For each question, continue to write on back of sheet, if needed, or continue to type and push down other questions.)

**Give us some background on your family life as you were growing up. What kind of influences affected you positively?  Negatively?**

## What is spiritually nurturing to you at this time in your life?

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## What might be your goals for the mentoring relationship ~ your expectations for outcomes of this relating?

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## What do you expect from the child you would mentor?

## What do you expect from the child’s parents?

**What types of activities do you imagine participating in with this child?**

## What are the demands of your life’s current schedule and what kind of time will you be able to make for the child each month?

## How will you deal with the facts of this child’s life (that s/he may not be in a stable home environment, that the household may move often, that the parent(s) might disappoint you again and again?

**DECISION TO APPLY**

I understand that in applying to become a Talitha Koum Mentor, I am entering a process and that I will be supported in that process by a number of caring people ~ some professional, some volunteer. I also assert that my intentions are sincere and that I comprehend the serious nature of this undertaking, that while I may be hugely rewarded in this relating, I will also experience both joy and pain. Even then, I wish to apply to become mentor to:

Child’s name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or a child presumed to be best suited to my mentoring or one I will select after having volunteered in the classroom.

I prefer to mentor: a girl a boy no preference

I believe I/we are best suited to mentor a child no older than \_\_\_\_\_ years. (Not all of our children left TKI with a mentor at Kindergarten and still hope for one.)

Your name\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Zip\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* If you are part of a **co-applicant team** wherein a spouse or friend will be integral to the mentoring relationship, we ask that each of you fill out a form *separately* and enter the interview process jointly.