

Dear Bigs,

Big Brothers Big Sisters appreciates the time you spend with your Little and we want your outings to be focused on spending quality time together and mentoring your Little, rather than spending money. So below you will find some great, inexpensive activities to try with your Little. The great thing is that each of these ideas was submitted by a Big like you in our \$10 for \$10 contest!

### Money Saving Ideas for Match Outings

#### FREE

BS Monika - Saint Louis Art Museum Family Sundays: Every Sunday afternoon the museum offers plenty of arts and craft activities geared just for kids. They usually have something to do with the special exhibit going on at the time. They also offer kid-friendly tours of the galleries for anyone interested. Family Sundays, which are free, are from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. <http://www.slam.org/index.aspx?id=469>

BS Cheryl – Volunteering: For ZERO dollars, contact a veteran’s home or nursing home and arrange for your Little to play a game of checkers, chess, or other game with your Little. Many places offer free meals for their volunteers, so you may be able to eat together with the game player prior to playing games. In addition, it is a win/win for all! Your Little will learn how just giving their time can make someone else’s day while having a little fun to boot!

BS Jaysa – Volunteering: I have an idea for a FREE match activity. Volunteer with your Little. This time of year there are lots of things to do such as area clean ups for earth day, creek clean ups, etc. People can find volunteer activities through their church, city or other community organizations. The City of O’Fallon has a great volunteer services department, You can register online for a variety of fun events! Spend a day with your Little, have great conversation and teach them how fun it is to volunteer!

#### \$10 or Less

BB Johnny and BS Rochelle – Pick out a book (at a library or used book store) for you and your Little to read (you can read together during outings or each read a copy on your own) and then discuss what you’ve read during your outings. Not only will this give you something to talk about during your time together but it will also give you a productive task to complete together while gaining insight into your Little’s personality and view points.

BS Yasmira - Buy a couple nail polishes then one or two designer polishes and then use them to be creative while you and your Little paint cool patterns on each others’ nails.

BS Katie– Valentine’s Project: Go with your Little to Walgreens and buy a pack of Valentines cards and a pack of candy. Let him/her pick out his/her favorite pack of cards, and it will help you learn more about his/her likes and dislikes. Help your Little address his/her Valentines and attach a piece of candy to each Valentine. As he/she addresses the cards, ask questions about each person who is receiving a Valentine. Some good questions are, “how do you know him/her?”, “what activities do you participate with him/her outside of school?”, “who is the easiest to talk to?”, and “who is your best friend and why?” The total cost is definitely under \$10 and you can learn so much about your Little’s close friends and family.

BS Pechaz – Skating Lessons: Attend Skate King on Saturday mornings with your little from 10-12. That morning session is called “Skating Lessons” and there are instructors to teach both you and your little how to roller skate if you don’t already know how. The total price is \$8 for entrance. Of course, any food or games your little would like to play or eat is extra. But, if you went to breakfast before hand, then \$8 bucks is all you need for a great skating session!

BS Jaysa – Movie and a Meal: For any St. Charles area matches - At the St. Andrews dollar theater it is only \$1.00 each to see a movie! You can even get a cheap lunch by splitting a \$5 foot long at Subway or get a hot and ready pizza for \$5 at Little Caesars. So that is only \$7!

BS Laura – Handmade greeting cards: You may need to buy some cardstock or heavy paper, but most Bigs have envelopes, scissors, markers, glue, colored paper, and pictures cut from magazines. Crafty Bigs will also have glitter, fabric scraps, stickers, and buttons they can use to decorate the cards. This is perfect for Valentine's Day but also great for holidays, birthdays, or thank-you notes. My Little and I once made a card with an American flag made out of strips of construction paper, to thank our Match Support Specialist for getting us Cardinals tickets.

BS Ali – Cake Decorating: After I pick her up we head to the grocery store and buy a cake mix or two and go back to my house. We make small cakes and cupcakes out of the mixes and while they are baking make a big batch of icing and dye it all different colors. After everything has cooled we use plastic baggies to make icing bags and use any random kitchen tool we can find to make different designs and decorate everything we baked. It gets kind of messy, but is always lots of fun. Then she has cupcakes to take home for her family and I have treats to bring into the office.

BS Katie – Creative Collages: Stop at a Walgreens or a grocery store and grab a few magazines that are age appropriate for your Little. Cut out pictures/words/phrases that you can glue onto a piece of paper to make a locker collage of all your Little's favorite celebrities, sports, etc. You can also use the same concept with actual photos of friends and family for the collage. As you go, talk to your Little about the people in the photos, their favorite celebrities, quotes, sports, etc. and you'll get to know them even better!

BS Kim – Thanking Others: I had a small birthday party for my Little. Afterwards we got thank you cards and stickers and I showed her how to write a thank you card to those who had given her a gift. Then she was able to decorate it with markers and stickers. This is probably under \$5 and hopefully a good lesson for her.

BB Charles – Cooking: For under \$10, you can easily make a fun meal together. Start out with a basic meal, say pancakes, and then go to the grocery store and let your little pick out a few things to spice them up a bit - you can add chocolate chips, blueberries, pecans, etc., according to his or her interests. Just mix them into a prepared batter, and voila! Let them flip the pancakes for extra adventures!

BB Brian – Crafts: My suggestion is to purchase a box of pop sickle sticks from Wal-Mart for \$4. Hot glue sticks for \$2 and even a mini glue gun for \$3. The craft possibilities are limitless and it's worth hours of fun. Trying finding a deal like that anywhere else for a total of \$9!

BB Preston – Public Library Events: these are actually free but may vary based on location. Public libraries are constantly having activities and events for kids. The public library on South Grand near Taron's house for example has events such as: game night where kids can play video games like the Wii, monthly book club discussions where kids can discuss various books they've read, and creative hour where kids can participate in activities such as making a shamrock wreath to celebrate St. Patrick's day just to name a few. All of the activities are free, some may require a library card but those are easy enough to get if you don't have one. Just check the calendar of events either online or at a branch. I plan to attend some of these upcoming events with Taron. I've attached the link to the online calendar below: <http://www.slpl.org/events/calendar.asp?selectedEvent=4&selectedBranch=0>

### **\$10 Each**

BS Gillian – Ice Skating: Skating at Steinberg Rink in Forest Park... It's \$5.50 for kids for the all day ticket and then \$3.00 for rentals.