

Big Brothers Big Sisters: A Cross-Age eMentoring Experience

The CricketTogether program, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Saint John, pioneered a unique cross-age eMentoring model, matching 90 students in grades 3–5 with 90 students in grades 8–12 for a year-long online mentorship. Coordinated through the BBBS agency in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, this initiative is the first of its kind in Canada to use CricketTogether.

Collaborating with teachers in the local school district, the program fostered friendships and connections between older and younger students through over 2,000 online letters. Both groups saw significant improvements in literacy skills, with high schoolers experiencing their first opportunity to mentor younger peers, an experience they might not have pursued independently.

BBBS coordinator Meaghan Hickey-Hare commented, “We have witnessed friendships flourish letter by letter, with excitement and anticipation building as the students prepare to meet in person for a wrap-up celebration at the end of the school year. This program has not only enhanced literacy skills but also created lasting community connections that enrich the school experience for all participants.”

“ **I HAVE NOTICED** a big change in your writing since I first started talking to you. I think you’re doing great. I just wanted to tell you to keep up the great work. A wise person once told me, if you work hard, you can get anywhere in life.”

—eMentor

“ **MY STUDENTS** said they met someone new in their community and their buddies are nice. We love this program. Students were excited about reading and writing letters. As a teacher, I love this program because my students are practicing their reading, writing, and typing skills.”

—Heather Pitt,
Grade 3 Teacher,
Rothesay Elementary School

