



# Handout: It's Essential

## ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR TEEN TEACHERS

### Belonging

Children feel like they belong when they experience a positive relationship with older youth and adults, and a safe and fun experience. Teen Teachers can:

- Know each child's name and welcome the children by their names
- Make sure that every child has a chance to speak and to share their ideas
- Make sure that every child is included in activities

### Mastery

Children gain mastery by developing new skills. Teen Teachers can:

- Make sure that children are engaged in the learning all the time
- Encourage children to try new things, and support them when they succeed or need to try something again to master it
- Look for things that the child can do easily and recognize his or her ability
- Compliment children on the things they do well

### Independence

As children grow they need to develop increasing independence. Teen Teachers can:

- Provide opportunities for children to have input into decision-making
- Encourage children to explore and express their own ideas
- Help children see how what they are learning today will be useful as they grow up
- Be a role model for children so they are inspired about what they want to become

### Generosity

It is important for children to increasingly see themselves as part of the larger community. Teen Teachers can:

- Build a learning community with the children by making sure that everyone understands and follows the ground rules for working together
- Encourage "please" and "thank you"
- Recognize children who are generous to others
- Brainstorm ways that children can share what they learn with others