

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY: MATCH SUCCESS STORY



Shelbi & Kaitlyn

Brittany wanted Kaitlyn to have a mentor so she could enjoy more engaging activities and spend time outside the house. After joining Big Brothers Big Sisters, Kaitlyn found the perfect match in Shelbi! Over the years, Brittany has seen a positive change in Kaitlyn. "She's definitely grown! I noticed her attitude has gotten better. She's been enjoying the match and gets a lot out of their outings and their time together." Brittany added that Kaitlyn has become more social and outgoing since being matched. Shelbi continues to nurture an important friendship by creating a safe space, helping Kaitlyn explore her interests, and even assisting with homework when needed. Brittany shared about Kaitlyn, "She loves cheerleading, working with hair, and doing makeup. She's very into cosmetology," and is excited to see how her time together with Shelbi will continue to support those passions.

Kaitlyn couldn't remember why she initially wanted a Big, but she's thrilled to be matched with Shelbi: "She's really fun and funny, and she takes me everywhere I want!" LS loves going to interactive places, like her first trip to Urban Air with Shelbi, and proudly calls herself a "foodie." "I like Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, and Applebee's." Shelbi has also helped Kaitlyn focus on school, guiding math and social studies. One of her favorite memories is shopping for a gift for her mom, where they picked out a cute pink elephant together. She always has a great time with Shelbi and looks forward to future outings and having new experiences together.

With a background in youth development, Shelbi has always valued community service and was drawn to BBBSL after a co-worker mentioned it. She was excited to be matched with Kaitlyn and has enjoyed supporting her growth and confidence. "She's more confident in trying new things. We are diving into her interests to figure out what she does and doesn't like, and helping her have different opportunities. She's been speaking up more and sharing her ideas, and taking more initiative to pick activities," Shelbi said. She also finds it rewarding to see Kaitlyn care for herself and her family, and she admires Kaitlyn's resilience and ability to bounce back when things don't go her way. Shelbi focuses on consistency, kindness, and reliability, creating a safe space for Kaitlyn to explore her feelings.. The two enjoy painting, movie days, and trying new restaurants together. "Our favorite restaurant is Sesame Burgers in Park Circle." They also bond over TikTok, and Kaitlyn keeps Shelbi updated on the latest dances. Recently, Kaitlyn started cheering—a connection to Shelbi's own childhood. One of Shelbi's favorite memories is a boba shop outing where they talked about confidence and mantras. Together, they created an affirmation sheet on Canva, which Kaitlyn designed herself and shared with her mom.