

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- **Don't constantly teach.** Recognize teachable moments, use open-ended questions.
- **Don't criticize the past.** Avoid bringing up past mistakes.
- **Don't always interrupt.** Let the person tell you the story or information without being interrupted.
- **Don't pry.** Be sensitive to verbal and nonverbal clues that indicate you may be a threat.
- **Don't share personal problems.** You are there for the Little's sake. She is not your therapist.
- **Don't punish honesty.** Don't let your feelings about **how** they tell you conflict with **what** they tell you.
- **Don't criticize friends.** Remember currently these are their peers and your opinions can be damaging rather than helpful.
- **Don't criticize family.** Even if you disapprove do not voice your opinion. Coach your Little in solving the problem as it relates to them.
- **Don't set unrealistic goals.** You are just one of the many villagers in your Little's life - be patient and preserving.
- **Don't discourage difference.** Allow your Little the freedom to explore various ways of thinking and behaving even if they are different from you.
- **Don't pass judgment.** Wait to be asked your opinion before you offer one.
- **Don't underestimate your role.** Although she may not always let you know how much you mean to her, you are a special part of her life.
- **Don't spend a lot of money.** Remember, the relationship is about getting to know each other, not about spending money and buying gifts. Keep your activities at low- or no-cost.