



Savannah - Chatham County  
Local. Outreach. Volunteer. Educators.

# L.O.V.E. MENTORS

Helping  
Children  
Learn

www.lovementors.org

March, 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Dan Malachuk**  
*Mentor Recruiting and  
Assimilation*

### MENTOR MATTERS: L.O.V.E. Continues to Grow and Grow

Since 2016, L.O.V.E. has grown from 127 to 179 wonderful mentors. We have expanded 40%! Now, most of our schools have a substantial, meaningful mentor presence.

Several schools have capacity to handle more mentors. They have

waiting lists of students who would benefit from what we do. Based on what each of us sees every time we are in one of Savannah's schools, we understand firsthand how many more children might benefit from our help. Other schools call regularly asking us to start programs in their schools.

Looking ahead to next year, if our fall recruiting class follows recent trends, we can expect to add 15-20 new mentors. Some new mentors will be assigned to "top off" schools whose head count is approaching 20 and to schools who have asked for more help. Some new mentors will be assigned to back fill for attrition, which can be as high as 10%. As this school year ends in May, we'll take a short survey of all mentors to see what your plans for next year might be so we can make plans for next school year.

Every few years we have a strategic planning workshop to establish goals for the coming couple of years. We will be hosting one on March 16<sup>th</sup>. One key topic will be future growth plans.

- Can we define an optimal school presence -- big enough to matter, have sufficient school attention, but still be a manageable size?

During the past two years, we have been able to enhance our leadership teams. Now, our schools have Assistant Site Directors and that has aided in the transition to an increased presence of mentors in the schools.

- What is each site's support and effectiveness with the L.O.V.E. program?
- What are the steps we can take that might reduce mentor attrition from year to year?
- Is it time to add another school?

Adding a new school requires a strong Site Director as well as a successful recruiting program. Do we have mentors who feel called to serve as Site Directors?



### Spring 2020 Mentors

Low	28
Isle of Hope	27
Williams	26
Gadsden	25
Pulaski	18
Hodge	18
Haven	15
Early Learning Center	12
Windsor Forest	8
Early Learning Center	12
(Gould-special arrangement)	2
TOTAL	179

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Would you be willing to help L.O.V.E. as a Site Director or an Assistant?
- Help us with our recruiting efforts?



Think of how you were “recruited” to L.O.V.E. When we ask our new recruits, we learn that many have read about us in *TWATL* or a church newsletter; some find us through our website; many more know someone who is a mentor and that mentor encouraged them to give it consideration. Do you know someone who would find that being a mentor is just what they need in their life at this time? Let’s encourage them to check out the website and see if they would like to have a talk about what they might do and the impact they might have -- Helping Children Learn.



by: *Carol Brown and Callie Ryan*  
*Camp Directors*

**E**very summer L.O.V.E. offers camp scholarships to L.O.V.E. students and their siblings. This opportunity offers a safe, fun and structured experience for our children. Last summer we sent over 85 children to camp.

Each of our schools has a mentor that has volunteered to be the camp coordinator for that school. Callie Ryan and Carol Black are the Camp Directors for the whole program. They communicate with the camps and submit the applications.

Starting the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, mentors will give their mentees an invitation for a camp scholarship along with a description of the camps we partner with. These are sent home in the student’s homework folder. Parents and students select their camp preference and request an application to that camp. The school’s camp coordinator sends an application home with the student who must return it by April 29th.

Mentors are encouraged to talk enthusiastically to their students about the camps and the scholarship that we provide.

## TIPS FOR TUTORS

Here is a phonics game for early elementary level



By: Catherine Ruhl  
Training Co-Chair

### The Plastic Egg Game



**P**urchase some plastic eggs that come apart. Put a random number of pennies, or beads in several of the eggs. Have a scoresheet, pencil and blank pieces of paper ready for flash cards.

Mentor mentions that today's game is about word families such as "ake". Invite the student to open up an egg and count the number of items in the egg.

If the student has 4 items in the egg, he/she is then to name 4 words such as **cake, make, bake, lake** that are in that word family. Set up a scoring sheet and keep track of the total number of words. Mentor then transfers the "ake" words to flashcards and at the end of the game reviews the cards. Give bonus points to the student if he/she exceeds the number of words required.

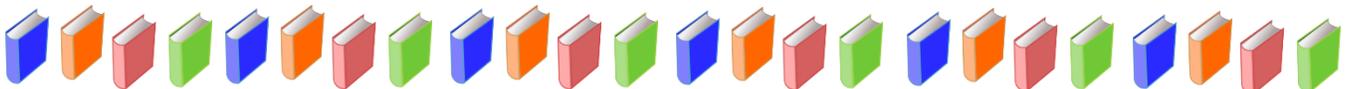
Next, Mentor selects a word family and takes a turn. Mentor makes flash cards of his/her new words. (Children then learn more difficult

words and can actively interact with the mentor). Take the time to explain the meaning of any word mentee is unsure of.

**The 37 most common word families in English are:**  
ack, ain, ake, ale, all, ame, an, ank, ap, ash, at, ate, aw, ay, eat, ell, est, ice, ick, ide, ight, ill, in, ine, ing, ink, ip, it, ock, oke, op, ore, ot, uck, ug, ump, unk.

This simple game could also be expanded to include:

1. Words that begin or end with a "p"/or any letter and make flash cards.
2. Words with a short a vowel or a long e vowel or whatever vowel sounds being learned.
3. Words with blends. The most common 2-letter consonant **blends** are: bl, cl, fl, gl, pl, sl, br, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr, sc, sk, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, and tw.



Our website continues to be updated and there are several links to give mentors creative ideas on how to help their students. Topics include "How to Help a Struggling Reader" and "How to Use Sight Words."

Go to our website and click on: MENTOR TOOLS, and find information on reading, math and general information: <https://www.lovementors.org/resources>



L.O.V.E. believes that improving a child's education is the foundation for improving quality of life. Classroom teachers have little opportunity to work one-on-one with students. L.O.V.E. provides this benefit to students.

## L.O.V.E. Leadership Team For 2019 - 2020

School Liaison-SCCPS ..... Laura Wehrle, Officer  
 Mentor Recruiting and Assimilation ..... Dan Malachuk, Officer  
 Reporting Secretary ..... Sam Lambert, Officer  
 Treasurer ..... Kevin Dutton, Officer  
 Mentor Resources and Training ..... Ginny Pierce  
 Publicity and Events ..... Carol Fallon and Denis Healy  
 Camp Directors ..... Callie Ryan and Carol Black  
 Training Co-Chairs ..... Susan Horne and Catherine Ruhl  
 Director Emeritus ..... Karen Lindholm  
 At Large ..... Bill Monroe  
 Administrative Support ..... Mike O'Neill and Roy Samras  
 Publication Design ..... M. Louise Walters, The Leadership Center

## Schools

At the current time, L.O.V.E. Mentors serves 9 Title I schools in the SCCPSS.

SCHOOLS	L.O.V.E. SITE DIRECTOR
Andrea B. Williams .....	Nancy Boyd Mary Sommer, assistant SD
East Broad/ELC at HE Formey .....	Debbie Sens Susan Woods
Gadsden .....	Jan Smart John Brandewie
Haven .....	Kevin Dutton Susan Horne, assistant SD
Hodge .....	Nancy Ambler
Isle of Hope .....	Betsy Hines
Low .....	Ginny Pierce Jane Martin, assistant SD
Pulaski .....	Ginny Donaldson Jill Corbin, assistant SD
Windsor Forest .....	Sue Burns



**Thank You For  
Helping Children Learn**