

2025-26 Theme: How to Mentor

2025-26 Theme: How to Mentor

August 25, 10am-4pm Mentor Training

Dear Bridges Mentors,

We are so excited to share this incredible lineup of materials with you. We've chosen them carefully with your needs in mind, and hope you'll engage with them as much as your circumstances allow. We've leveled the assignments to fit different time constraints, yet we hope you'll push yourself, even just a little.

We are designing mentor training to help you grow in confidence and skill as a mentor. You'll gain practical tools like how to inspire, ask powerful questions, and uncover principles. You'll also learn how and why to practice blank page mentoring. We know these skills will help you in your own homes.

We hope you'll leave feeling empowered, aware of your influence, and excited to become a more effective mentor.

Looking forward to growing together,

Lindsay and Whitney

1. Practice Studying a human classic: C.S. Lewis

Level 1	Read <i>The Last Battle</i> from the Narnia series.
Level 2	Level 1 and watch: "The Most Reluctant Convert: The Untold Story of C.S. Lewis" (movie).
Level 3	Level 1, 2, and read and annotate <i>The Abolition of Man</i> .

2. Finding Principles of Truth: Audrey Rindlisbacher

Level 1	Print, read and annotate " From Opinions to Principles " by Audrey Rindlisbacher.
---------	---

Level 2	Write a set of 5 Questions (as described in the article) inspired by the Last Battle
Level 3	Learn more about finding true principles by listening to Audrey Rindlisbacher's podcast. Here are links to her 3-part series introducing principles: • Intro to Principles I: Natural Law #audreyRindlisbacherPodcast EP 84: Intro to Principles I: Natural Law-The Mission Driven Mom Podcast • Intro to Principles II: First Principles #audreyRindlisbacherPodcast EP 85: Intro to Principles II: First Principles-The Mission Driven Mom Podcast • Intro to Principles III: Principles #audreyRindlisbacherPodcast EP 86: Intro to Principles III: Principles-The Mission Driven Mom Podcast
Extra Credit	Read "Mission Driven Life"

3. Phases of Learning by Oliver and Rachel DeMille

Level 1	Read <i>Phases of Learning</i>: Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2 • Focus on understanding Erikson's chart in Chapter 1 on page 24.
Level 2	Level 1 and Read the "ingredients" chapters and choose 1-3 "Ingredients" to work on with your family and be prepared to share verbally how it's going
Level 3	Level 1, 2 and read the rest of the book

4. Raising Parent-Oriented Kids: Dr. Gordon Neufeld

Level 1	Watch Relationship Matters Dr. Gordon Neufeld TEDxWestVancouverED ~20min. Think about what you can do to strengthen your attachments in your family
Level 2	Level 1 and Chapter 18 of <i>Hold on to Your Kids</i> by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Mate and think about how you can help facilitate an adult oriented community at Bridges
Level 3	Read all of <i>Hold on to your Kids</i> by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Mate and think about how you can help facilitate an adult oriented community at Bridges

Extra Credit	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7fZyPRBc8M&t=2154s ~1:40 or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzp5XC5lYa0&t=1s ~1:03
--------------	--

5. 7 Keys of Great Teaching

Level 1	Read The Seven Keys of Great Teaching - TJEd.org visual presentation and listen to The New 7 Keys - TJEd.org (audio) Write about which side do you lean to: “authoritative” or “permissive”? What can you do to center yourself more in “assertive”?
Level 2	Read about blank page mentoring and practice doing it for one of your kids. Be prepared to share your experience. https://tjed.org/2019/02/the-weekly-mentor-you/
Level 3	Levels 1 and read any title in the Leadership Education Library: https://tjed.org/product-category/education-titles/# and write about where you have found the same principles in another educational philosophy
Extra Credit	TJEd - many other articles and inspirational blog posts are available here

6. Class Outline Prep

	Junior Program Mentors (0-11ish yrs) Read <i>Project-Based Homeschooling</i> by Lori Pickert.	Scholars Program Mentors (12ish+) Read <i>Hero Education</i> by Oliver Demille
Level 1	- Chapter 2 Self-directed, self-managed (pages 13-45) - Bring an example (or a picture of an example) of a project one of your kids has done.	Read Part 1 (to pg. 79)
Level 2	Chapter 3 Doing the work (pages 47-102) and Chapter 4 Deepening the work (pages 103-130)	Read through Part 2 (pg. 156)
Level 3	Read the whole book	Read the whole book
Extra Credit	Do homework from the junior or scholars–whichever you aren’t teaching	

Follow up homework after training:

1. Complete your class outline and schedule for a mentor meeting with Whitney (junior mentors) or Lindsay (scholar mentors).

2. Biographies: Write a one page biography for each one of your kids that includes a picture. These bios are a great step in creating connections between parents, youth, and mentors, and help mentors know your child so they can connect with them in classes (helping to build an Attachment Community). We want the students to be seen through the eyes of the people that infinitely love their kids (that is you!). **Please don't skip this assignment.**

The biographies could include elements such as:

- their passions,
- their genius,
- their hope and dreams for the future,
- their struggles,
- the things they want to improve on etc.

Please be vulnerable and share any special needs your student has. These biographies will be sent to their mentors and parent meetings will be held with each parent using this information as a guide. Upload to this [folder](#).

For Dads

1. Help Dad support Mom and kids <https://tjed.org/product/homeschooling-for-dads-toolkit/>

Ponder: How do we inspire fathers to be involved in our homeschool?

- *To share their passions with the family*
- *To build confidence in mom and children*

Level 1	Listen to <i>The 3 Dad Superpowers</i> from <i>TJED-Homeschooling for Dads Toolkit</i>
Level 2	Listen to “ <i>What’s so Great about the Classics?</i> ”
Level 3	Write about how you can incorporate one or more of these ideas in your home
Extra Credit	Read <i>His Needs, Her Needs</i> by Dr. Willard or “ <i>For Women (or Men) Only</i> ” by Shaunti Feldhahn

