



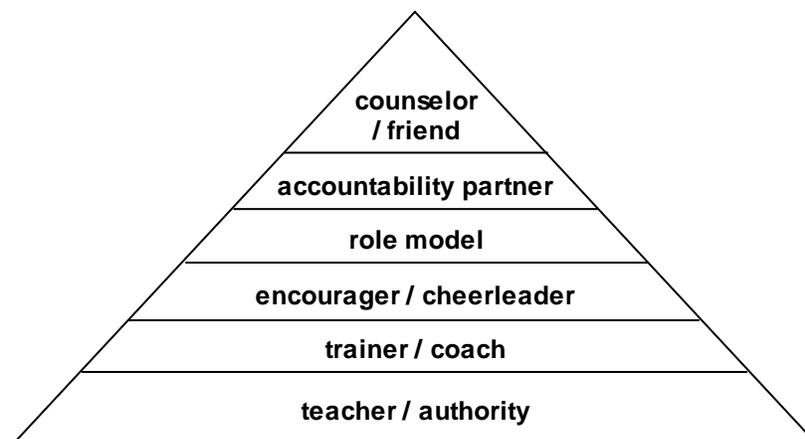
The Mentoring Relationship: Having Appropriate Boundaries

What does it mean to be a mentor?

- teacher / authority
- trainer / coach
- encourager / cheerleader
- role model
- accountability partner
- counselor / friend

How is ECA different from other schools in terms of mentoring students?

Most schools view the teachers' role as instructor and authority...not much more.



What activities are appropriate for teachers & students outside of school?

Anything that will lead them closer to Christ! But here are some guidelines:

- ✓ Do activities in a group.
- ✓ Always try to have another adult present.
- ✓ Never go out with just one student of the opposite gender...never.
- ✓ Avoid going out with just one student of the same gender, but at times this is entirely appropriate. Contact parents about where you will go, what you will do, how long you will be, and the type of transportation.

Remember that appearances do matter. Protect yourself and your students.

Where do teachers draw the line in terms of what to discuss with students?

- Teachers must see every discussion as an opportunity to *disciple the student*, not to *fulfill personal needs*.
- Limit topics to spiritual issues or areas where the student can grow.
- Be open about your own life, but be extremely careful about what you share.
- Try to keep these discussions same-gender, although this is not always possible or even necessary.
- Avoid sharing feelings that could lead the student to believe that the relationship is more than just a friendship.
- Be careful of what you compliment them on and how you say it.

What areas of advice-giving should be off-limits for teachers, if any?

- ❖ Always make sure that your advice is biblically based! Use the book!
- ❖ Never approach a serious matter without praying first! This gives you wisdom and helps model for the student the best process for making decisions.
- ❖ Be extremely careful when asked for input about future plans...the student may do exactly what you recommend. Make sure you pray, take time to think, and speak with the Spirit's leading. Never just say the first thing that comes to mind.
- ❖ Always be supportive of their parents and other authorities.
- ❖ Never try to tell a student who he/she should or should not be friends with or date...just give biblical counsel about how to choose friends wisely.
- ❖ Never promise to keep a secret that would be dangerous to do so.

**We must be extremely careful within our role as teacher-mentors, it is true. But the opportunities before us for personal discipleship are too numerous and too valuable to throw out just because there are risks involved!
Pray before everything, walk the lines carefully, and move in the Spirit.
God will change lives using you!**