Meet Haley.



Haley Winchell first heard about the Funhouse Mentor Program through word of mouth, and was immediately intrigued at the prospect of being a mentor.

Before Haley was matched with her mentee, Angelina, Haley thought that mentoring might be hard. "I had this idea that I was doing it as a service for a kid, and that it would be a little taxing and time consuming on me, but I am pleasantly surprised that it's NOT! It's just as beneficial for me as it for Angelina." Haley explains.

Angelina and Haley have a lot of fun together. Angelina says that hanging out with Haley is "more exciting" than other adults. "I feel like I'm more free and I can have fun more, now that I have a mentor."

The pair spend a lot of time exploring the island. "I get out more now that I have someone to do things with, who also enjoys exploring and finding new adventures. Having Angelina in my life, I get more creative. It gets me out of my comfort zone." says Haley.

But there is more to their relationship than going on adventures. The pair have formed a true friendship. "She says things that genuinely make me laugh and entertain me. We have good conversations!" says Haley, right after a giggle-filled story from Angelina about sliding on the ice.

According to Angelina, her friendship with Haley has helped her to not only have fun, but to become more confident herself: "I feel free and not afraid to ask things. With Haley, I can just ask it."

This strong relationship shows how the Funhouse Mentor Program can be a rich and rewarding experience for both children and adults.