

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY: MATCH SUCCESS STORY



Craig & Cayden

Kenyatta wanted her son, Cayden, to have more opportunities to stay active and connect with a positive male role model—someone who could not only mentor him, but also have fun and share his love for sports. She affectionately describes Cayden as “definitely a Gemini! He can be very straightforward, but also shy.” After being matched with his Big, Craig, for over a year now, Cayden has truly thrived. “Cayden loves to be around Craig,” Kenyatta shared. “I’ve seen him grow a lot since they’ve been together.” From playing football and basketball to getting help with reading comprehension, Cayden has become more engaged both physically and academically. Kenyatta is optimistic about her son’s future and appreciates the role Craig has played in his development: “I envision great things for Cayden. He needs some support and structure, but he is very smart and intelligent—and capable of so much!” She believes their match has been a great fit, and is excited to see how their relationship continues to grow.

Cayden was thrilled when he first got matched with Craig, saying, “I really wanted to hang out with someone!” Since then, their bond has blossomed through a mix of shared interests and meaningful support. They regularly spend time together playing video games, heading to the trampoline park, and enjoying outdoor activities like tag and football—some of Cayden’s favorites. Whether they’re having fun or focusing on schoolwork, Cayden appreciates Craig’s constant encouragement and positive energy. He especially values the help Craig gives him with subjects like math and reading. One of Cayden’s most memorable experiences so far has been their trip to Flight Trampoline Park: “I had a lot of fun there!” he

recalled. With Craig's steady presence, Cayden has grown more confident in his abilities and feels supported both as a student and a friend.

When Craig decided to become a Big, he was motivated by the desire to make a difference in a young person's life. "I felt like I was in a position to give my time to someone who needs it, and who's open to learning new things. I think everyone deserves to have fun experiences, and I want to help with that," he shared. Over time, Craig has watched Cayden open up and come into his own. "Cayden was a little shy at first, but now we're basically really good friends, and we can talk about anything. He's funny, athletic, and really smart—we're definitely a great match." They've built a strong and trusting connection through regular hangouts and shared activities like football, basketball, and learning new sports such as pickleball and volleyball. They also enjoy watching sports and playing video games together—Fortnite being a favorite. One of Craig's favorite parts of their match is the friendly competition: "He jokingly talks trash sometimes during sports, and it's all for fun. It shows me he's comfortable and that we're friends. It's rewarding to see that we've built a relationship where he can be himself."