

How Do You Build a Relationship with a Teacher Virtually?
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Many of you will return to the teacher you have been working with and this is comforting. A few of you might be assigned to a new teacher. In either case, the teacher or school liaison should be in touch with you.

Building Trust: How do you establish a relationship with a teacher virtually? You have to ask yourself what is the big picture? One goal is for the teacher to know that you are making a commitment to help her students grow as readers despite any technical barriers that may be in your way. When you are enthusiastic and truly care this is contagious. The teacher is counting on you to work with her student(s) weekly.

Curriculum Direction: As a tutor, you will want guidance on what to cover with your student however you will not want to take too much of the teacher's time. One method is to offer to the teacher that you attend some of his/her lesson to observe what the students are learning and be able to build on that learning or reinforce that learning with the students. Another method is to ask for their Google Classroom or online platform so you can review the curriculum without needing to check in with the teacher as much. If access to the classroom page is a challenge, the School Liaison may be able to assist the teacher in getting you access.

Online Set Up: You will want to ask your teacher to arrange breakout rooms during their online class times for your tutoring time. You should also speak with them about the best method for

accessing the literacy platforms. In some cases, teachers will give the tutor access as if you were another student in the class assigned that platform. Other teachers will prefer for students to have access and students will share their screen, turn the pages etc.

Communication: It is important to maintain good communication with your teacher and support staff if they are involved. You should get the teacher's school email and the teacher should have yours. If you have to skip a week send the teacher an email. This helps even if you may have mentioned it via Zoom given teachers have so much to keep track of. Some teachers may be teaching from their classroom, which means the school secretary would be in the office, so have that number also in case you are having technical issues and need to contact the teacher. Make sure you get a copy of the school calendar to be aware of vacations, early releases and days off.

Weekly Updates: As you work with your student jot down how your session went, you might want to share with your teacher the progress your child is making or any difficulties that you encountered academically or socially. These updates are important to ensuring growth and strong student support. If you need to speak to the teacher email her/him to arrange a time. Use the child's initials when you are typing and wait for the teacher to respond. PLEASE be patient with your teacher. Teachers are working so hard and are stressed.

Student Issues: You may learn information about the family life given the video conferencing and you should see your teacher as a resource. If you are struggling with student participation and sense some barriers beyond the student's control, tell the teacher. Teachers may not be able to share certain information with you but they will often be able to act on the issue at hand and follow up with you when/if the issue was resolved. Confidentiality is extremely important in this setting.

Your Voice: As you know as a member of the GBJCL volunteer community, your voice represents more than only your opinion within the school setting and school community. To the school staff, volunteers represent their synagogue or organization participating in the school partnership. If issues arise that merit feedback, please speak with your team leader for guidance on the next steps.

This is a difficult time for educating children, thank you for making this commitment. You will make a difference!