

Supervising B'Mitzvah Study At Home: Independence With Supportive Guidance

Your child's b'mitzvah is in a sense the celebration of your child setting out on the road to adulthood. From this point forward, they begin to assume responsibility for their own obligations and behavior, as they move away from relying on their parent(s) and/or those who care for and about them. The B'Mitzvah ceremony itself is the culmination of many different learning opportunities and experiences that you and your child will have. More than a moment in time, or getting up in front of the congregation to read Torah, the b'mitzvah is about your child beginning to be a responsible and active adult member of the Jewish community. Similarly, preparing for one's b'mitzvah is more than studying Hebrew and prayer. It is about learning to become a responsible and independent Jewish learner, acquiring the skills and foundational knowledge that opens the door to Jewish learning over the course of their lives. One of the steps for b'mitzvah students, then, is taking responsibility for their own progress. Together with you, their parents or caregivers, the AAC team including the Religious School, b'mitzvah tutors and the Hazzan, will encourage and support your child to succeed in this venture.

You are a crucial part of this team and as parents or caregivers, your involvement throughout the process is key to your child's success. For some parents, the content as new to them as it is to the student and equally as challenging, for others it may be more familiar. Whatever your background, we invite you to support your children in this endeavor in a way that best suits you and your family. Modeling involvement reconfirms for your child, in a very powerful way, that their b'mitzvah is a meaningful stage in their lives, since you are investing time and energy in the process and in the community. Your active support in their learning is also vital. Whether that means sitting with your child while they study, giving them reminders to study, or simply inquiring about their progress. In any case, when your child works at home, we ask that you monitor three areas:

- Time of day and duration of study
- Environment
- Materials

TIME OF DAY AND DURATION OF STUDY

We recognize that every student has their own schedule. Choose a time of day when they can study for at least 30 minutes without interruption and when they are best able to focus on the material. Regular study is critical. Students should put aside time EVERY DAY to practice.

ENVIRONMENT

It is important that your child is able to sit in a place where they can focus and comfortably practice their prayers and chant out loud without interruptions. It is important that there be no distractions (i.e. extra tabs open on the computer or beeping/notifications from their devices). Students tend to be most comfortable if they have a private place to chant. Because b'mitzvah study involves listening and vocalizing, prayer skills, as well as torah and haftarah reading **MUST** be practiced out loud. There is no substitute for this. It is not acceptable if your child tells you that they are going over their material in their mind. If you can't hear them, they aren't practicing.

MATERIALS

Your child should have access to the following items in their study area.

- Haftarah/Maftir Booklet
- Tikkun and Siddur
- Trop Sheets and Siddur "CD" Track Sheets
- Mp3 Website: <https://www.agudas.xyz/>
- Notebook and pencil
- Kippah

Partnership

You, your child's b'mitzvah tutor, the Hazzan, Rabbi and Religious school staff are all working together towards the same goals:

- Supporting your child on their learning journey so they are as prepared and comfortable for their b'mitzvah ceremony as possible; and
- Helping your child acquire the skills and knowledge that will serve them over their lifetime as a Jewish adult.

You can expect to be copied on communications between your child's tutor and your child and also receive regular updates from your child's tutor. Please discuss with them and the Hazzan your assessment of your child's learning and any issues you are aware of that might impact your child's learning. The same holds true for the rest of the AAC team that, together with you, is supporting and guiding your child throughout their preparation. Open communication is the key to success.

We are looking forward to being part of this exciting and fulfilling journey with your child, with you and with your entire family.

Mazal tov!