

Rabbi Rodal's Principles of Chinuch

1. Every child can be reached and taught. It's the educator's challenge to reach the child.
2. Education is not just teaching information. It is about providing the student with the tools, values and skills to face and overcome the challenges life presents them.
3. Never underestimate the effect that you have on a student. Sometimes it can take many years to surface.
4. Asking questions awakens interest.
5. Although "You don't need an elephant to teach the color grey" the children will definitely remember it.
6. Using nature and animals awakens interest and excitement, and teaches them about animals, nature, and the Creator.
7. Showing the bigger picture - how Hashem creates and runs the world, is a central part of education
8. Make the student feel special.
9. Be the students' friend, and develop and nurture a relationship with them. Really caring - nothing tops that.
10. Use any and every opportunity and setting to bond and with the student.
11. Even when being tough and using discipline, remain calm and keep the twinkle in your eye, showing the child you care for them.
12. Animate, dramatize and bring to life the stories of the Torah.
13. There are rules, and sometimes those rules are supposed to be broken. The student then realizes you are treating them with respect as a person, not just a student.
14. Make your students laugh and smile. A pleasant atmosphere goes a long way. A smile and warm word can accomplish more than the best class.
15. Not every question has or needs an answer. Sometimes the student is not asking to get an answer. Rather, they may be asking because they are in need of an understanding ear.
16. Playing sports with the kids is a great way to connect.
17. As a partner in the child's upbringing, it's not just learning that should concern you, but their wellbeing and general happiness.
18. The child will often reflect the educator. If the educator cares and pushes themselves, the child will do the same.
19. Genuinely love what you teach, and your students will love it too. Enthusiasm is contagious.
20. Praise lavishly. Especially the quieter students. Make sure no student is left out. Identify and highlight the students' individual strengths and make the student feel empowered.
21. Think outside of the box, because often, that's where the students are.