



How to Be a Welcoming and Engaging Host Sibling

Be patient. Your exchange student didn't grow up with the same parents, let alone the same rules, as you. Everything is new and they are learning things for the first time.

Don't judge. There's more than one right way. Exchange students are still just teenagers but they didn't grow up in this country or in your family.

Teach and learn. Differences in culture means variations in what is and isn't the right way to behave. Learn about your student's culture and teach him/her about yours.

Assist. Some students have difficulty making friends and meeting people. Explain what teenagers like to do and how they should talk to people at school.

Be kind.

Include. Your exchange student will be anxious to join family and school activities. Help him/her learn how to do this and how to balance family, friends, and school.

Help with school and homework. Textbooks are sometimes hard for American students; they can be really hard for exchange students. Many students don't know how important doing your homework is.

Be open minded. People who think their way of doing something is the only way are not fun to be around.

Take time for your new brother or sister. They are only living with you for 10 months but the relationship you have with him/her will last a lifetime. Make time for each other and make an effort to get to know one another.