

USING MENTORS IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Tips from Ms. Crawford,
Josiah Quincy Elementary



Encourage open communication! By giving mentors the online classroom link and your email address, you're able to communicate with volunteers more easily.

Set expectations, and don't worry about being perfect. If you're new to working with mentors, start with the basics: "This is the student, these are their needs, and here's exactly what I want you to do."



Consider making mentors a co-host on Zoom or other platforms so they're able to manage participants and have full access in their groups.

Utilize mentors in breakout rooms. My mentors facilitate "dramatic play" with students in breakout rooms, and it eases my mind to know that students are in there with someone.



Volunteers are a valuable extra set of eyes and ears. I can't listen to students' stories the way I used to when they'd come into class in the morning. With a mentor, there is someone there who is able to hear the things that I can't.

Remind mentors that students may just need to talk to someone. Give them a space to talk about things they like. Knowing about their academics is great, but knowing about who they are is also important.

