

P2P has helped me improve my social and communication skills. I have learned a lot from being a mentor and teaching younger students. I enjoy interacting with my buddy, Bella and appreciate her always putting in her best effort. I want to become a strong mentor for her to look up to. I have had challenging moments during our sessions, but I have learned to overcome them. From these challenges, I have learned several things and they have helped me to become a better and bigger person.

A challenging moment during my time as a helper was being able to communicate. My buddy lacked strong communication skills so I did not know if she understood the material or not. She often did not speak, and English was not her first language. I overcame this challenge by being a little more strict and responsible. I told her to repeat after me and try reading some sentences on her own. With this, I could determine what level of English she was comfortable with and what she struggled with. I told her to show me a thumbs up or thumbs down after teaching her my lesson. This allowed me to figure out what to assign her. After I taught a lesson, I asked her if she had any questions and she got more comfortable with me. I also gave her words of encouragement so she was persistent in learning. As she became more comfortable with me, she began to ask more questions. For example, she asks me the definition of many English words, and I am always happy to answer her. Since she is not able to comprehend English at a master level, I share my screen to show pictures of the words. This has helped her a lot. It lets her see a visual representation of the word and improves her vocabulary knowledge. From this challenge, I have learned to not give up and believe in myself. Mentoring is a lot more challenging than it looks. Younger kids are harder to teach virtually because they often have shorter attention spans. When my buddy didn't talk to me, I realized that you have to keep trying and figure out ways to get to know your buddy better. You have to believe in yourself because you are the bigger person compared to your buddy. You are teaching the material, you are responsible for them, and you are their guide.

Overall, P2P has significantly helped me grow as a person. Being a mentor has taught me many things, and I am grateful for the challenging moments I have faced during our sessions. I always learn something from the problems I experience. This has contributed greatly to my communication skills with my buddy. I have also learned how to stay persistent and overcome problems I face on my own. I am responsible for teaching my buddy and guiding them as they grow older. I hope my sessions make an impact and help my buddy in the future.