

Some Info on me, my Terms & Conditions, and some FAQs

- When I teach:
 - I typically teach one student on each of Mon/Tue/Weds/Thurs.
 - On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, I tend not to teach – but I can make exceptions. Please discuss with me.
 - Towards your child's BM date, we might squeeze in some weekend lessons too

- About me:
 - I have a full-time job as well as teaching - and sometimes the job causes me to be late, for which I apologise in advance
 - I teach because I love the musical tradition of the Spanish & Portuguese congregation which my family belong to.
 - I can't teach Ashkenazi tunes because I don't know them well enough
 - My undergraduate degree was in Hebrew Language & Literature from Cambridge. I also hold an MA in Jewish Studies from Kings College, London.
 - I have three children. I taught two of them myself (my son had two Bar Mitzvahs – one at Lauderdale and one at NNLS in an Egal minyan).

- On the day of your BM
 - I expect to attend your child's BM service
 - Depending on the custom at the synagogue, I typically stand next to your child on the Teibah (Bimah)
 - It is my pleasure to attend your special simcha and this will not be a paid-for service

- Fees, Payment and Cancellation
 - Fees are provided on request
 - Payment is to my bank account at the end of every month
 - Cancellation is fine if you cancel with more than 24 hours notice. I have to charge in full for lessons cancelled any later than this.

FAQs

- Special Circumstances and Financial Need
 - I offer support to families who experience financial hardship – please talk to me about your situation
 - If your family has any special circumstances (illness, mental illness, neurodivergence or other) or is going through a major life change (e.g. divorce, bereavement), please let me know so I can be mindful of this in how I support your child.

- How many lessons will I need?
 - Answer: it depends on your child's level of Hebrew and how much of the Torah/service your child will be learning.

- How much of the Torah / service should my child read?
 - The tradition for Sephardi (S&P) kids in the UK is to read the 5th Aliyah, plus the special Bar Mitzvah prayer
 - For children learning with me in any other synagogue, I still recommend reading the 5th Aliyah, plus other aliyot according to your child's ambitions and abilities.
 - The 1st Aliyah is also good to learn as your child will be able to read it at the Shacharit service on the Thursday before your Shabbat BM
 - Ashkenazi synagogues typically ask their kids to read Maftir (the shortest section of Torah) and Haftorah + all the blessings. Most Ashkenazi rabbis will adjust for a Sephardi family. But if necessary, I can teach Haftorah too.

- About your child's level of Hebrew.
 - One or both parents are Israeli, and some Hebrew is spoken at home. These kids find it easiest. Minimum 4 months, Max 1 year.
 - Child has attended a Jewish school which teaches Hebrew. These kids are usually OK. Minimum 6 months, Max 1 year
 - Kids who attend a non-Jewish school and have only attended Heder tend to find it hardest. Minimum 1 year.