



## Fostering Relationships Among Girls, Group Leaders and Parents

- Get parents involved by requesting they bring things to meetings like food, magazines or items for craft projects - or by sharing a special talent (like a parent who is an artist or cook) where it can fit into a meeting.
- Snap pictures during your *Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!* group meeting and hang them around the door, or on a display board, so when parents arrive they can see how much fun their girls had at previous gatherings.
- Use the pictures you take as a fun “gift” to send the girls over a break or between meetings. Write “remember when...” on the bottom of the picture and drop it in the mail. It will remind them of how much fun they had.
- Send your girls a postcard when you go on vacation or see something that reminds you of them. The cost of a stamp is a small price to pay to make a girl's day!
- Involve the girls in planning your next meeting. For example, in an e-mail during the month offer a few choices for craft activities and allow them to choose.
- Send the whole group an e-mail about a topic of interest (cc your supervisor and/or the parents so they are aware of your e-mail communication with the girls). If your girls were talking about the pregnant elephant at the zoo, e-mail them when the baby elephant is born. They will be thrilled that you took an interest in what they were talking about.
- Create a distribution list for parents of your girls as well and keep them updated on current topics relevant to teen girls, parenting and/or Judaism. Have you read a great article in your local Jewish newspaper about girls or a neat tzedakah project coming up? Share it! It only takes a minute, and the parents will feel involved.
- Make sure you send *Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!* the contact information of the parents of your group – including their e-mail addresses, they will be added to the Moving Traditions e-newsletter list and receive a wonderful seasonal article about parenting a Jewish teen.
- Invite the girls to an outside event that you are involved in – a play, concert, yoga class, story telling, fundraiser, etc.
- Most of all, be creative and mindful of the idea that your girls' connection to the group doesn't exist only during your monthly gatherings – you can maintain it throughout the month & then reap the benefits when you gather together.