It takes time to form a sincere and trusting friendship. Start by asking questions about her life, family and home country. You may wish to share some of your stories too. Involve her in outings with the family where she doesn’t have to work (like a walk in the park), celebrate her birthday, occasionally buy gifts for her kids to show you care, and communicate with her even if it has nothing to do with her chores.

Once she sees that you value her as a person, she’ll be more likely to open up and have greater respect for you.

If you’re afraid to befriend her for fear of losing your authority, just remember that if there is respect, no authority is needed – because there’ll be an unspoken understanding between you.