

## Top 5 tips for video chat with young children

Young kids learn and develop by interacting with caring adults, and whatever app you choose—FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, Zoom, Google—video chat is a great way to help your little one build a relationship and stay connected with long-distance family and friends.



Scan for more information, services and resources.

### TIP 1

#### Get up close and personal.

Eye contact is the key, so sit close to the screen and make sure there's enough light that your little chat partner can see your whole face.



### TIP 2

#### Get your timing right.

Schedule the video chat for when your baby or toddler is more likely to be alert and ready to pay attention, like in the morning. And expect the chat to be relatively short in length—about five minutes or less, depending on the age of the child.

### TIP 4

#### Ask them open-ended questions, and be a good listener.

Young kids learn language and develop early literacy skills by having back-and-forth conversations, even before they can use words themselves. Ask questions that take more than a yes-or-no answer and give them a chance to respond.

### TIP 3

#### Make it an interactive experience.

There are a lot of fun ways to engage and play together virtually. You can read them a book, sing songs and rhymes, play with stuffed animals, puppets or toys. No matter how you engage them, the key is to make it a back-and-forth interaction.

### TIP 5

#### Show them the love.

Video chat with young children is about making an emotional connection, and you play an important role. When your child's on-screen partner gives them a virtual kiss or tickle, you can mirror that affection to nurture their relationship.