



HALOW

(Birmingham)

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PURPLE VISITS (Video visits)

Video chats are a great way to help families stay in touch with their loved ones. They help to maintain family links and help bridge the gap. They can make a real difference not only to the lives of the residents but also to their family, friends and loved ones. By using the Purple visits particularly at this worrying time the live chats play an important role in facilitating and maintaining communication and connection during this time of isolation. Even very young children respond well to interactions with others via video chat, many have struggled with no visits, coupled with isolation and lockdown and we believe that PURPLE visits will have a positive impact to all who participate. Talk to them and prepare them about what to expect and what they are about to take part in.

You may wish to prepare children for the video chat by explaining what the chat will look like and what to expect, this is your choice as you may choose not to incase there is a technical problem and the chat doesn't go ahead avoiding disappointment.

Here are some helpful ideas and tips to make video calls more interactive and enjoyable for families with children.

Using video chat means that children at times may have to sit still or quietly and focus on the screen, therefore try to ensure that your child/children are sitting comfortably and aren't tired, hungry or thirsty and toileting needs have been taken care of. Sometimes you may need to help children understand communication via video chat, therefore you may have to repeat what is being said to them.

Have some of your child/children's favourite toys or story books ready at your side or their latest piece of art work to share and talk about, maybe they have a favourite song or nursery rhyme that they would like to perform. Think about any of the child/children's milestones that you would enjoy sharing i.e. new tooth, first steps, counting to ten, reciting the alphabet etc. Older children may want to make a list of their top ten favourite things they have done this summer, perhaps they could do a weekly diary in the run up to the video chat that they could share, any new achievements or celebrations i.e. a Birthday or scoring a goal, any certificates that they would like to show etc. This may prevent those silent moments when struggling for something to say.

And remember video chatting can be a fun way to feel close to each other so don't forget you can lean in for a high five or blow a kiss to say hello and goodbye.

After the visit:

It is natural for children to have mixed feelings that they don't understand after the chat, they may experience enjoyment and relief alongside those of sadness, loneliness, worry or confusion. Therefore try and focus on the positive, discuss what they enjoyed, can they think of anything they forgot to say to remember for next time, start looking forward and planning for the next chat.

Please feel free to phone our children's worker on 0121 598 8050 if you would like to discuss any other child related issues.

We really hope you enjoy your video call.