Resources and Tips for Supporting Teenagers and Young Adults in Virtual Peer to Peer Engagement

On April 21, 2020 NTACT along with presenters from Best Buddies International, Leigh Carbon Community College, and the PEAL Center conducted the webinar Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok & Beyond: Social Media for Peer2Peer Engagement that presented information regarding effective practices and resources that promote and enhance communication and engagement of students with disabilities.

This document is a summary of the resources and tips presented.

TIPS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

FOR SUPPORTING VIRTUAL PEER ENGAGEMENT

GIVE US SOME SPACE

- Respect our privacy
- Provide only the support we need
- Let us practice independence
- Show us different ways to participate

SEPARATE SPACES

- We don't want to work where we play
- Set up stations for different activities
- Designate times for each activity
- Free time means free time

REDUCE SCREEN-TIME

- Give us a break
- Adjust the lighting, screen distance, and our surroundings
- Remind us to stretch and get up and moving
- Help us find something else to do away from the screen

FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN CONTROL

- Talk to us about how we are feeling
- Make social stories, schedules and calendars
- Be honest with us
- Help us discover things to look forward to
- Support us to plan and make decisions when we can

Tips provided by:

PEAL CENTER
empowering
youth & young adults

The Search Institute provides a [Relationships Check tool](#) to give you a snapshot of the strength of your relationships with young people. After taking the quiz, you will be provided with approaches and activities that will help you strengthen your relationships while you connect through technology.

NTACT
National Technical Assistance Center on Transition

Social Mediums for Peer to Peer Engagement			
Platform, App, Activity	**Description**	**How to Connect**	**Who It's For**
Discord	Communication platform that allows you to set up group specific communication organized into specific topics	discordapp.com
This can be run on web browsers or Android/iOS apps. Each member must create an account. The person running your group will then create a channel and invite the members.

How to Use Discord for Your Classroom | Originally made for Gamers, this method of communication is best for those in their late teens/early twenties. |
| Facebook | A website which allows users, who sign-up for free profiles, to connect with others online | facebook.com
For web browsers or Android/iOS apps – create an account and connect with friends. Share pictures, videos, and messages.

How to Use Facebook

Ideas for using Facebook in the classroom | Originally for college students; for anyone over the age of 13 (parent/guardian supervision suggested) |
| Flickr | Flickr is an image hosting service and video hosting service | flickr.com

Download the app to Android or iOS | Originally for photographers; anyone over the age of 13 |
| Google Meet | A video conferencing app that enables users to make video calls with up to 30 users per high-definition video meeting | gsuite.google.com
Google secures your information and safeguards your privacy through encrypted video meetings.

How to use Meet

How Use Google Meet for Remote and Online Learning | Business/organization-oriented; anyone over the age of 13 |

Instagram	A photo sharing app which allows users to assign filters to photos and share them with followers	instagram.com Instagramers can sync their photo sharing to other social networks, so Instagram photos can be posted directly to Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, Flickr, and Foursquare. How to Use Instagram Using Instagram in the Classroom	For anyone over the age of 13
Jackbox Games	This is a digital party game platform	One person would need to go to jackboxgames.com or on their gaming console to purchase the desired game or party pack. This person hosts the game, and others can join from any web-enabled device for free How to play; How to play with friends and family remotely Jackbox for homeschooling or teaching remotely	There are family friendly game options, but this is best for groups of 3-8 people who are in their teens and above.
Microsoft Teams	Teams is a chat-based collaboration tool that provides global, remote, and dispersed teams with the ability to work together and share information via a common space	https://www.microsoft.com Utilize features like document collaboration, one-on-one chat, team chat, and more How to Use Teams	For anyone over the age of 13

Remind	Communication platform for teachers to share classroom assignments, instruction, and brief communication with students all in one place	remind.com

Download the app to Android or iOS and set up an account and a classroom that your students can access through their account

Remind.com for teachers | K-12 teachers and students, Higher Education, and Parents. |
| Snapchat | An app with one core feature: any picture or video or message you send - by default - is made available to the receiver for only a short time before it becomes inaccessible | snapchat.com

A mobile app for Android and iOS devices

How to Use Snapchat

15 Ways to Use Snapchat in Classes and Schools | For anyone over the age of 13 |
| Talking Points | Multilingual communication platform that allows teachers to communicate with students and their families without a language barrier | talkingpts.org

Create a free account and connect with your student and their families through their account | Teachers and students K-12. There is a character limit and a bit of delay due to the translation, so this is for brief updates and check-ins |
| TikTok | A free social media app that lets you watch, create, and share videos | tiktok.com

A mobile app for Android and iOS devices

How to use TikTok – Complete Beginners Guide

Ideas for using TikTok in the classroom | Anyone over the age of 13 |
| Tumbler | Tumblr is a network of millions | tumblr.com | Anyone over the age of 13 |

	of user-generated websites; part blogging platform and part social networking service, where users can create and post their own original content.	Written entries, photographs, video clips or links to other websites -- you can share all these things with your friends and followers; use web browser or mobile app for Android and iOS devices	
Twitch	Streaming platform for video games that allows other people to see your game live	twitch.tv Create an account and download the app on your chosen video game console. Enter this app and begin broadcasting through a named stream prior to joining your game How to Get Started on Twitch	This is best used by the facilitator and shared through a virtual meeting space; use when you want to collaborate on a gaming app for social activities
Twitter	A service used to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent messages.	twitter.com People post Tweets, which may contain photos, videos, links, and text. These messages are posted to your profile, sent to your followers. How to Use Twitter 20 Ways High Schools are Using Twitter	Anyone over the age of 13
Zoom	Video-based communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, collaboration, chat,	zoom.us Connect through mobile devices, desktops, telephones, and room systems Educating Over Zoom	Anyone over the age of 13

	and webinars across	[Hosting Virtual Events](#)	