



Until recently, most children's experience of video calling hadn't gone much further than occasional video calls with friends or family who don't live nearby. Now, many children are finding video calls are becoming more prevalent in their lives and in recent months they may have been involved in online lessons or keeping up with activities such as karate or Cubs. Video calls are also great for connecting with link classes in the Schools Linking project. Below are some ideas for how to support children to feel comfortable on a video call and some creative activity ideas!

For technical support for video calling, visit: <https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/schools-linking-2020-2021/digital-support/>

Help children to be comfortable:

Give children information before the session with information about what it will be like and what activities will take place.

Consider having small group get togethers (5 or less) as well as larger groups, so that quieter children can connect and start to feel more comfortable in the space. (Ensure that there is an adult present from each school on the call, even in smaller groups).

Consider having a 'pre-call' with a small group of selected children. This will give them chance to experience a video call in a smaller environment.

Agree beforehand how the children will indicate that they would like to speak – hands up, cards etc

Send out an activity before the call for children to complete, that they can show at the start of the call e.g. a simple drawing or a more advanced project

Creative ideas:

Play games you might already play in the classroom which adapt well for online. For example:

- Pictionary (use the whiteboard function on Zoom)
- 'I went to the shop and I bought...'
- Mime an action and the other children have to guess what it is
- Charades – one child is given the name of a book or film etc and has to think of actions to help the rest of the team guess what it is
- Kim's game – one class gather together 5 objects to show the other class. After a minute of looking, the first class turn off their camera and remove one of the objects. When they turn their camera back on again, the second class tries to work out which item was removed.
- 'Simon Says'



Have a theme for the call. For example:

- Bring your favourite book
- Learn some vocab in another language together
- Bring a double spread of newspaper, allow one minute to make a hat etc

Play 'Name that tune' or 'Clap the song'

ABC

- Choose a topic like "household items" and take turns to say one in alphabetical order. So, "armchair", "biscuit tin", "coat rack"...

The Generation Game

- Both sides of video call to choose 15-20 objects and lay them out in a line.
- One side to show the other side their items.
- Other side has 1 minute to remember all objects.
- As they guess correctly items are collected up and counted at the end.

Share a story

- One teacher decides on the story and reads it aloud to both classes whilst on the video call.

A quiz on a video call

- Give each child two different coloured squares of card
- Children use these pieces of card to vote for their answer
- See further guidance for virtual quizzes at: <https://thelinkingnetwork.org.uk/schools-linking-2020-2021/digital-support/>

I like, you like, we like

- **One Statement Game** - When I read out a statement you like doing then stand up/or hold up the white or green card. Examples of I Like Statements: **Stand up/Show your green card if you like** - splashing in muddy puddles/if you like to play outside/if you like reading/if you like pizza/if you like watching/playing/supporting a football team/like sunshine/like snow days/would like to climb a tree/if you would like to catch a snowflake on your tongue/like chocolate. (Obviously keep asking inclusive questions so that everyone says yes to something!) **Model** commenting on the results of the statement e.g. so in our group we have a lot of children who like pizza I wonder if the children in our link class like pizza too? Perhaps we can ask them? Was there anything we all like? In our class there were lots of people who would like to climb a tree, but a lot less would like to catch a snowflake on their tongue. I've never done that either, but I think I'm definitely going to try next time it snows. Is anyone else going to try and do that? I wonder if our link class like snow too?



- **Choice of Statements Game** - **Show** children two statements and asking them to choose which they like most between the two e.g. Would you rather eat pizza or eat pasta? Do you prefer rain or wind? Do you prefer cats or dogs? You can either ask children to do something physical – stand up or put hand on their head. Or ask them to hold up a specified colour of card in the air for each choice. (the PPT Uses green or white) You can also allow them to hold up both! (After lots of teacher led examples from you, you can ask children to suggest extra statements.) Ask children to reflect on the results e.g. What do you think most people liked? Do we all like the same things? Has the person next to you chosen the same thing or something different. This allows children to begin to observe, reflect and be comfortable with similarities and differences as well as learn more about one another.