

connecting by video calls

Video calls can be a great way for generations to connect, especially when face-to-face visits aren't possible. We recommend spending some time planning the call to ensure that all participants get the most out of it. Here are some suggested activities for a video call. It's a good idea to plan together what might be suitable for the young people/older adults.

Asking questions

Having some questions prepared is very important to help conversation flow online. Children or residents might prepare some of their own in advance. Alternatively, the following links provide interesting questions to get the conversation started, particularly for children to ask older adults.

When planning, make sure you decide who is going to ask each question (and when) and remember to only have one voice speaking at once.

- <http://myhomelife.uws.ac.uk/scotland/Interactive/KeyCards/jar.html>
- <http://myhomelife.uws.ac.uk/scotland/Interactive/FinalWheel/wheel.html>

Story time

Bring your favourite story to the online call and children can take it in turn to read a section aloud to the residents. Make sure children stand close to the microphone for this.

Charades

Residents and children take it in turns to mime a sport (skiing, running, dancing, tennis, javelin, basketball, football, hockey, rugby, dancing, archery, ten pin bowling), things you do in school (reading a book, painting, playing cricket, lining up as a class to go into the classroom, singing in assembly, sharpening a pencil, washing your hands, using an iPad, eating in the dining hall, playing tig) or an animal (kangaroo, snake, cat, elephant, giraffe, bird, frog, chicken, penguin, meerkat) whilst the other class guesses.

For each go, decide whether older people are miming to the class or vice versa. If there is a large group, it might be better to have only a small group at a time miming towards the screen – the others need to remember not to shout out!

Perform

Prepare a song or a poem and perform it during the online call.

Describe then and now

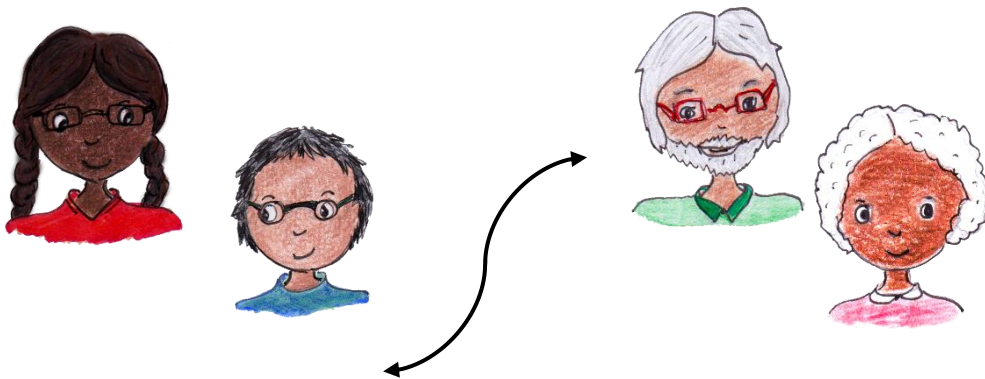
Ask older people to describe their classroom when they were younger. Children then describe their classroom and compare what is the same/ different

Show and tell

Using objects is a great way to start a conversation and to find out more about something that is important to each other. This works best in smaller groups to allow everyone time to share something.

Bingo

Residents and children both have bingo cards.
Teacher or care home staff reads out the numbers
Or, a child or resident could lead the game – make sure to plan beforehand what cards are being used and what rules are being stuck to.



Talk about inventions

Use [this](#) guide from [InCommon](#) to play a fun inventions quiz. Then ask the older people about some of the inventions in their lifetime.

'Would You Rather' Statements

Children and older people choose between one of two statements shown. They could indicate their choice using two different coloured pieces of card for A or B

Think of your own or choose from the statements below:

- ...play in the snow or stay indoors
- ...eat chocolate cupcakes or eat fruit and vegetables
- ...fly around the world or swim under the seas and oceans
- ...be a character in your favourite book or be a character in your favourite film
- ...speak every language in the world or play every instrument in the world
- ...stroke a cat or stroke a tiger
- ...have peas in your ice-cream or have peas in your jelly
- ...have a flying magic carpet or have your own robot
- ...have wings but not be able to fly or have gills but not be able to swim under water
- ...have the power to be able to read minds for a day or have the power to be invisible for a day