Building Your Virtual Toolbox
Before We Begin ...

Mute - Please make sure your audio is muted throughout the session.

Questions: Please use the chat window for questions

This session, and the chat window, will be recorded and saved.

Today’s objective: As we slowly move back into “normal” life, our presenters will review key strategies and tools for you to keep in your virtual tool box for use at a later time. Snow days may never be the same!
Today’s webinar & guest panelists

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GET READY … pre-visit

COMMUNICATION

- PSP communicates with all team members (including parents) to make sure that everyone received Zoom invite and knows what is being focused on during the visit.
  - example email/text: “Hi everyone! Just a quick reminder that we are getting together via Zoom tomorrow morning at 11:00 am (Zoom meeting information here). I will facilitate since we also have OT and vision joining us on the visit. Our joint plan from last week was to work on finger feeding while in a highchair. (Mom/Dad), please let us know if there is something else you’d like to talk about.”
  - PSP connects with providers separately to see if there is anything they would like to talk about during the visit.
GET READY …pre-visit

PREPARATION

Family:

○ Check in with them to make sure they have a good way to access the meeting, with a strong internet connection and at least one platform (phone, iPad, computer) to get on the call with.

○ Remind them about setting up the environment: reduction in visual and auditory clutter if possible.

○ Review the different viewing options (Gallery view vs Speaker view to lessen visual clutter and distraction for the child who may be looking at the screen).
GET SET …pre-visit

Setting Up Your Space

- Consider what is behind you, next to you, around you that could be distracting.
- Face the camera.
- Wear solid colors and minimize distracting accessories.
- Reduce background noise as much as possible (with apologies for what is out of your control).
- Have any materials/resources within arm’s reach.
- Make sure you are familiar with the video platform and how it works on the device you will be using.

- Lots of visual distractions
- Solid background, solid top, not looking at the camera
- Solid background with some visual distractions
- Face in shadow, a few visual distractions on wall
Home office set up

“A View from Above”

tall folding table or stool

tilted

baby

keyboard

phone

black polarfleece

mouse

baby

invisaboard
GET SET … pre-visit

- Plan your activity in advance if needed.
  - Work with parent to work on a skill or behavior within an established routine.
  - Work with parent to determine what materials the parent will need to have and what, if anything, you would really like to see during the virtual visit.
GO!
Be prepared to be flexible.

If plan A fails, remember there are 25 more letters.

~ Chris Guillebeau
“We’re staying in our house because we cannot touch anything.”

Leila, age 3, Boston MA.

Leila can’t attend her preschool and she misses her friends.

Her family is helping her make cards and beaded necklaces to send to her classmates.
What do families need during a pandemic?
What do families need during a pandemic?

- Reassurance:
- That they are doing enough.
- That everyday moments mean the most
- That what a family may see as ordinary, is ...
  - EXTRAORDINARY
What do families need during a pandemic?

- **Resources:**
  - To help children understand what’s happening
  - To find new and different ways to access learning tools
  - To figure out how to make something with things you already have
  - When you need a break.

Publishers and nonprofits are finding ways to get books and information to housebound children worldwide.

How to Have a Successful Virtual Visit

- Greet the child with a song or special greeting, using the child’s name and yours.

- Pat your chest as you say your name, and have the parent help the child do the same.

- End each visit with a song or special goodbye, using the child’s name and yours, patting your chest as you say your name.

https://teachingmama.org/8-songs-to-begin-a-preschool-day/
How to Have a Successful Virtual Visit

Use technology to:

- Pre-teach
- Demonstrate
- Share an experience
- Leave the parent with a concrete place to return post-visit for ongoing practice/ideas/FUN!
How to Have a Successful Virtual Visit

Send links ahead of time

Have a backup activity in case something goes wrong.

Making “Chocolate Moose”
Swedish Chef, The Muppet Show
TECHNOLOGY TIPS AND TRICKS

Where can I buy … ONLINE!

- Set up separate work account.

- See if your agency/district will give you tax exempt form to use on the site.

- Use Google Search for easy price comparisons on products, shipping costs, and estimated time of arrival.
Where can I find …

Be creative with web searches when looking for new ideas, new materials, DIY, and just plain fun things to do on a virtual visit!

Favorites: What are some of yours?

YouTube: (type in Kimala’s name for some great instruction!)

Facebook

Pinterest
TECHNOLOGY TIPS AND TRICKS

For communication:

- Adobe Scan: a great mobile app that allows you to scan just about anything into a PDF for easy texting.

- Video and/or audio recordings – these can come from you to the family or vice versa!

- If you are creating an audio or video recording, be sure that the family can easily access it (they don’t have to create an account, use a secret handshake, tell you their recipe for those amazing cookies they always seem to have on hand when you stop by …)
TECHNOLOGY TIPS AND TRICKS

KNOW YOUR PLATFORM!!

● If you are running a meeting for the first time, practice how to sign in, let in, participate in, and get out of the video meeting platform you are using.

● Keep it simple!

● Keep it real. At the end of the day, it’s a parent and a child and someone who cares about them and helping the family promote the child’s development.
WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Questions, answers, ideas