



Top Tips to Engage with Young Children When Video Calling

1. Time your chat.

Mornings are always better for young children and they will have better ability to pay attention.

2. Position yourself for eye contact.

Use eye contact to connect, and sit close to your screen so they can see your whole face. Eye contact keeps attention and interest. Try mirroring funny faces and playing peek-a-boo.

3. Engage them with familiar books, songs and toys.

Take time to prepare. Before your chat, ask their caregiver what they like to play with, read about, and songs they sing. Think of what props you can use for play. Young children may want to lead the conversation. Caregivers can help by encouraging them to introduce their favorite stuffed animal, or “read” their favorite book to you.

4. Plan for technical challenges.

Plan ahead so your toddler is not waiting. It can take time to address problems with sound, video, or connection issues. Weekends might be best when caregivers are home and have more time. Be prepared for the accidental hang up—that red button is tempting to young kids!

5. Lower your expectations.

Remember you are on ‘toddler time’ and attention spans are short. A successful call may be five minutes or less. Asking questions and interviewing won’t keep them long. Think of yourself as an entertainer, and enjoy your time on stage!

Good Questions To Ask Young Children

- What did you eat for lunch today?
- What was the best thing that happened today?
- What was the funniest thing that happened today?
- What made you feel happy today?
- Did anything make you feel sad today? What?
- Did anyone do something nice for you today?

