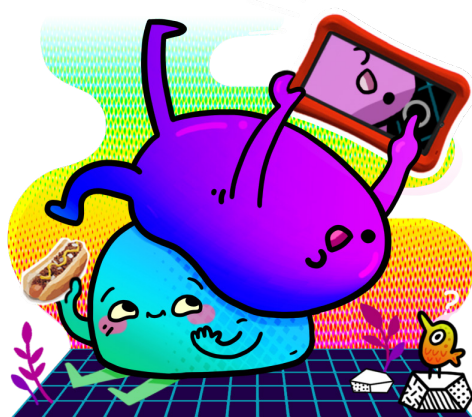


Building Virtual Clubs and Study Breaks for Your Child



Classroom time is only one part of a child's learning experience. Activities outside of the classroom, including clubs and study breaks, can be a great way for kids to socialize, explore passions and pursue new endeavors. While online education may be the new norm for many students, there are a number of ways that kids can continue to build relationships and foster connections within their community throughout the year through virtual clubs and study breaks.

What You'll Need

- Create an account for your child on Messenger Kids ([Instructions](#)).
- Connect your child to their classmates in the app ([Instructions](#) | [Video](#)).
- To support a safer environment, by default kids can only connect with contacts that their parents have approved. If more than two kids are participating, make sure all of your child's friends are connected in a group chat in the app prior to starting.
- Position your child's tablet or smartphone so that they are in view of the camera and test the microphone to make sure they're able to be heard by their friends.

Group Chat Ideas

- **Set Up a Virtual Club:** Holding regular meetings for a virtual club around a shared hobby or topic, such as books, music or movies, can help kids improve their communication skills and expand their understanding of different topics.
- **Schedule Group Practice Sessions:** For kids who dance, practice yoga or participate in other group physical activities, virtual practice sessions with their teammates can help maintain their skills and promote team camaraderie.
- **Meet Up for Virtual Study Breaks:** Study breaks can help kids connect with classmates to discuss what they're learning and ask for help with tricky schoolwork.



Tips

- Coordinate in advance to ensure each child comes prepared with all materials needed. For study breaks, encourage kids to ask questions about assignments or share thoughts for collaborative group projects.
- Have some kick-off questions or activities ready in advance for kids to engage with. We recommend having one question for each child to make sure everyone gets a turn to say something.

Safety Tips

- **Think twice before pressing send.** Help your child understand why it's important to think about what they're sharing online, why they're sharing it and who could be impacted - before they share. If they wouldn't want it to be shared or said to them, ask them to consider not sharing it or saying it to others.
- **Know what not to share.** It's one of the most important online safety skills, and it's great to start early: Make it crystal clear that, "We never share personal information or passwords with anyone outside our family. That means no last name, phone number or address. It also means no photos or videos of you, us or our house without our permission and no photos or videos of your friends without their permission."
- **Set boundaries.** Help your child understand it's important to trust their gut if something upsets them online – and say no, block the person to take a break from interacting with them or leave the app.

You can find additional resources at [Facebook Get Digital](#).

