



# COFFEE TALK 1: INCLUSION FOR VIRTUAL CAMPS

## FAQ and Additional Resources

### What are specific strategies for engaging participants with specific types of disabilities such as Intellectual Disabilities & Autism?

Many of the strategies that are useful for participants with specific disabilities are also universally useful for other participants (with and without disabilities) such as:

- Use cue cards and picture cards for communication
- Use communication/response tools embedded in the virtual platform such as Zoom tools, reactions, emojis/stickers etc.
- Keep the schedule & structure of activities consistent and predictable
- Use signals, cues, & sign language to get attention, control flow, and promote response
- Establish small groups/breakout sessions using virtual platform tools such as Zoom Rooms
- Say/show participant names often
- Pause & implement processing breaks, movement breaks, etc.
- Provide written/downloadable instructions & picture guides for activities
- Arrange 1:1 conversations and interactions as well
- Balance real-time/streamed activities with recorded/downloadable activities
- Limit directions/steps
- Spend time teaching skills just as you would in person such as social skills, communication skills, interaction skills, etc.
- Keep staff to participant ratio consistent to what you would in-person (e.g. 3:1) so that staff members can focus on different roles such as one staff member leads an activity, while another manages technology, while another monitors interactions and provides positive feedback to participants
- Build in transition time and routines to ease participants into changes between activities, groups, etc.
- Know and attend to your participants' needs and strengths just as you would in person to prepare the child for the environment and the environment for the child
- Communicate with families frequently to plan for the level of independence or assistance needed for different activities
- Design activities/interactions that promote autonomy & independence- teach and practice those skills
- Assign numbers to participants to guide interactions/flow for activities and group discussions
- Provide material kits for participants to use at home for activities or encourage use of familiar, easy to find, easy to use household materials
- Plan ahead for integration of virtual platform with Assistive Technology used by participants



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### What modifications can be made for those who have visual or hearing impairments when doing virtual meetings?

- Include text/written instructions for information presented verbally
- Include verbal instructions for information presented in text/writing
- Please see the NIP document “Accessibility for Virtual Platforms” for a detailed overview of accommodating individuals with sensory impairments in virtual learning experiences

### What are some programs offering virtual camp activities?

- NIP partner programs such as the Hockomock YMCA and B’nai B’rith Camp featured today are offering diverse & dynamic virtual and hybrid camp experiences!
  - Sarah Henesey: [Hockomock Area YMCA](#) Senior Director of Inclusion and Diversity, SarahH@hockymca.org
  - Michelle Koplan: [B’nai B’rith Camp](#) Executive Director, mkoplan@bbcamp.org
- Also check out what other NIP Accredited Programs are doing virtually:
  - [Brookfield Zoom Camp Facebook page](#)
  - [Camp JCC at the Bender JCC](#) ; [Camp JCC Facebook page](#)
  - [Camp Southern Ground](#)
  - [Camp Manitou-Lin](#)
  - [JCC Camp at Medford](#) ; [JCC Camp at Medford Facebook page](#)
  - [Levin JCC](#) ; [Levin Facebook page](#)
  - [Rock River Valley YMCA](#)

\*\* Please keep in mind that these organizations’ planning for Summer 2020 virtual, hybrid, and in-person events is ever evolving. Please visit their websites & social media pages for updates and information. \*\*

- The American Camp Association provides a variety of information and links about [virtual camp experiences](#) including listing of [ACA programs offering virtual camps](#) on its Covid-19 Resource page
- There are multiple [Facebook Groups](#) dedicated to virtual camp resources/transitions in response to Covid-19
- “Kids Out and About” of Rochester posts multiple virtual camp resources as well as frequently updates an extensive list of virtual camp programs on it’s [Virtual Camp Fair 2020 page](#)

### What are some ASL interpreting services that support Zoom and other virtual platforms?

- [Partners Interpreting](#)
- [Languagers](#)



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### What are good resources for fun activities and games to offer virtually?

- Here are some resources used by Coffee Talk presenters and participants shared:
  - <https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/virtual-program/virtual-organizations-companies>
  - <https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-pe-classes/>
  - <https://www.cmeaston.org/news/>
  - <https://mysteryscience.com/lessons/seasonal/spring>
  - <https://www.educatingalllearners.org/resource-library>
  - <https://myfreebingocards.com/bingo-card-generator>
  - <https://www.summercampspro.com/>
  - <https://www.thepaintedturtle.org/virtual-camp>

### What does your staffing model look like for participants who typically require 2:1 or 1:1 support in-person?

- Keep staff to participant ratio consistent to what you would in-person (e.g. 3:1) so that staff members can focus on different roles such as one staff member leads an activity, while another manages technology, while another monitors interactions and provides positive feedback to participants
- For students requiring more support plan with family members/caregivers for assistance as needed.
- Schedule small group & 1:1 virtual interaction, if possible
- Collaborate with home care organizations, extended school year staff, etc. to explore safe in-home support options

### What is the typical length of your virtual activities?

- Online videos, Facebook Live posts, social media interactions etc. sometimes last only a few minutes; whereas, scheduled meetings & activities range from 15 min, to 30 min, to 45 min, to 60 min depending on activity structure, purpose, use of breakout rooms or smaller groups, etc.

### How are you monitoring registration and participant numbers for your virtual programs?

- Online registration via website
- Email and phone communication
- Postcards and packet/materials kit pick-up or mailing
- Zoom meeting registration links
- Existing program apps
- [MyCAMPapp](#)
- [ClicktoCamp](#)



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### What are you charging for virtual programming?

- The programs featured in this Coffee Talk were provided for free to pilot and refine virtual program options in response to Covid-19 and to plan for potential Summer 2020 virtual/hybrid camp options
- Chat participants and other program partners have shared that pricing structures for virtual programming are in development but will be offered at reduced rates with multiple free options available online to the general public as well

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### COFFEE TALK PRESENTERS

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### PLEASE NOTE:

Responses listed here represent information provided by NIP partners and participants contributing to the Coffee Talk series—lists are not exhaustive or exclusive.