



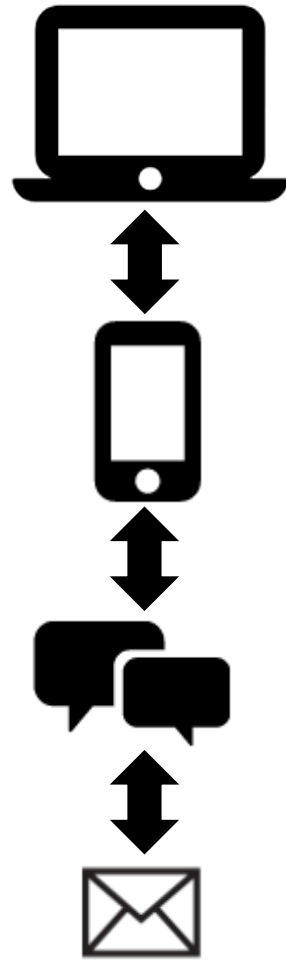
KEEPING YOUTH SOCIALLY CONNECTED DURING PHYSICAL DISTANCING



BBBS Independence (Philadelphia, PA) is encouraging matches to maintain communication through email, phone, and video. Agency staff continue to provide regular match support calls and are vigilant about identifying the needs of their Littles during these uncertain times. They have developed a [webpage](#) with a comprehensive list of resources to support matches and their family members. Through their weekly newsletter to matches they are sharing educational resources and tips on staying connected.

BBBS Nutmeg (Hartford, CT) was quick to recognize the need for COVID-19 match resources. The agency compiled a [Virtual Mentoring Toolkit](#) with suggested activities, educational resources, and supports for Bigs as they transition to an online relationship with their Littles. The agency has adopted the Big Neighbors program to support under-resourced and medically vulnerable families by running critical errands (e.g., picking up groceries or prescriptions).

BBBS of Kentuckiana (Louisville, KY) has prioritized contacting families to identify and respond to their needs. The agency has posted curriculum online and Site-Based matches are communicating on the Zoom platform. The agency has developed a [guide for matches](#) in response to COVID-19.



BBBS Puget Sound (Seattle, WA) is now using Zoom for match applications and volunteer trainings to continue making new matches during this time of social isolation. Matches are encouraged to use virtual platforms such as FaceTime and email to stay connected. The agency continues to pioneer Technology-Enhanced Mentoring (TEM) through use of the Chronus platform. The agency compiled and shared a list of suggested [activities](#) with their matches.

BBBS Services (Richmond, VA) developed a [resource guide](#) for matches that includes recommendations for staying connected. They are working on a social media campaign that highlights the importance of relationships during COVID-19 through match stories. The agency is in the process of planning a "Virtual Big Night" using GoToMeeting to better facilitate and support conversations among Bigs.

BBBS Twin Cities (Minneapolis, MN) started a Pen Pal program and facilitated virtual hangouts to encourage match communication. The agency has shared [44 virtual activities](#) with matches, including physical games at a distance and shared learning activities. The agency developed and shared a detailed list of [COVID-19 resources](#) with their families.



VIRTUAL MENTORING: TIPS TO ENHANCE MATCH INTERACTIONS

WAYS TO CONTINUE COMMUNICATING*	VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES FOR MATCHES	SUPPORT FOR BIGS
<p>Phone/Text Rocket.Chat, Ez Texting, Facebook Messenger Kids, WhatsApp</p> <p>Postal Mail Pen pals, mail activity packs to matches</p> <p>Email Pen pals</p> <p>Videoconference Zoom, Skype, GoToMeeting</p>	<p>Make a meal (America's Test Kitchen) Homework help (Wide Open School) Scavenger hunt (Education World) Craft activity (Happiness is Homemade) Read a book (Libby, Hoopla) Concerts (List) Museum visit (List) Zoo visit (National Zoo, San Diego Zoo) Online games (PBS, Gamesgames.com) Exercise (National 4-H, We Are Teachers) Watch a movie (Kanopy) Write a cooperative journal (Storybird) Digital photography (National 4-H) Puzzles (The Spruce Crafts) Learn to dance (CLI Studios) Learn to draw (Lunch Doodles) Learn a new language (duolingo) Learn coding (Code.org) Learn a new skill (Skillshare) Post curriculum/activities (Google Drive)</p>	<p>Virtual mentoring toolkit (Nutmeg BBBS) Continued match support Check-in reminders Online mentor training Virtual support group</p>
<p>* These are pending parental permission. In instances where agency policy forbids contact outside of sessions for Site-Based matches, three-way phone calls with the Match Support Specialist and supervised virtual hangout sessions are options.</p>		

Special thanks to the Comcast Beyond School Walls sites (BBBS Columbia Northwest, BBBS of Greater Pittsburgh, BBBS Twin Cities, BBBS Independence, BBBS Lone Star, BBBS of Metropolitan Chicago, BBBS of Metropolitan Detroit, BBBS of Middle Tennessee, BBBS of Northeast Florida, Nutmeg BBBS, BBBS of Snohomish County, BBBS of Southern Arizona, and BBBS of the Sun Coast) and Altria Success360 sites (BBBS Richmond, BBBS Independence, BBBS of Middle Tennessee, BBBS Puget Sound, BBBS Kentuckiana, BBBS of the Triangle, and BBBS National Capital Area) for their assistance in developing this resource.