

Together Experiences

PJ Library's Tips to Hosting a Family-Friendly Virtual Together Experience

- 1 Pick which virtual platform you'd like to use.** Zoom, Skype, and Google Hangouts are some of the options we like. It's a good idea to play around with it before your event and get comfortable with the settings. We're also fans of logging on early to troubleshoot any issues.
- 2 Invite your friends in a fun way!** Evite and Paperless Post have free e-invitations you can use to get your friends excited about your experience.
- 3 Start with an icebreaker to get your guests warmed up and used to doing a family zoom.** You can ask younger kids to bring a favorite toy or stuffed animal to share with everyone. Older children can design a virtual background and talk about it. Adults can put a favorite show or book they've enjoyed recently in the chat box.
- 4 Think about how long you'll want your experience to be.** It's much harder to stay focused during a virtual event than a live one. Thirty minutes may be all you need for a great experience. Or think about engaging the kids for a shorter time and letting them watch one of our favorite [Bim Bam videos](#) while the adults connect.
- 5 Share the love – and the work!** Think about giving each participant a role for the experience. A techie friend can help with tech support; a musically talented friend might lead a song or blessings.
- 6 Most of all, don't sweat the small stuff and have fun!** There will be tech glitches, toddlers that don't want to look at a screen, and maybe you don't get through all that you planned. Take a deep breath and enjoy... the important part is that you are IN IT TOGETHER!