In-Person Social Activities

Staying connected with others is vital to maintaining your well-being. Although connecting virtually is the safest way to connect during the pandemic, sometimes people aren’t comfortable enough with technology or don’t have the resources to make this feasible. If this is the case for you and your loved ones, you can use this tip sheet to help coordinate a safer socially distant in-person activity. Give your loved ones a call or coordinate with neighbors through social media groups or neighborhood apps like Nextdoor and Patch.

People can use lawn furniture or bring folding chairs and sit at a glass door or window while you sit in a chair inside of your home. You can then call each other and use speaker phone to converse. Or, if you wish to get a dedicated device for this activity, you could get a Full duplex wireless intercom for window visits.

Window visits can be enhanced with glass markers to play and draw with little ones, and even not-so-little ones. You can draw together, play tic-tac-toe, or any number of paper and pen-based games.

If you live in a space that has a yard, driveway or large porch, you or visiting groups can arrange activities for little ones to do when they inevitably tire of interacting with adults, so adults can continue to sit and chat. Organize an egg hunt or scavenger hunt with varying degrees of difficulty for new and advanced players or for a less planning-heavy visit, stick with tried-and-true toys, like:

- Colorful chalk
- Bubble toys & wands
- Hula hoops
- Jump ropes
- Sand and water tables
- Lawn chess & checkers
- Bean toss/Cornhole
- Ring toss
- Croquet
- Bocce balls
- Ice cream balls
- Water balloons & sprinklers

A socially distanced picnic is a lovely way to share an afternoon, also, gathering outdoors is the safest way to gather in-person. You can meet with loved ones at a park or someone’s yard and bring food and blanklets.

**Pro tip!** Blankets are a great visual marker to help people remember to always stay 6 feet apart.
If you have an occasion to celebrate, like a birthday, anniversary, or graduation, consider a drive-by party. Organize a time for everyone to hop in their cars or on their bicycles and do a drive-by celebration! You can decorate your vehicles, play music, and drop off gifts and balloons on their front lawn. If people can socially distance well, you can even park, mask up and express your affection in-person through song, caroling-style.

Projectors are pretty cheap nowadays, and they enable you to play a movie against the side of your house or garage door, allowing you to have a mini, socially distanced “drive-in” movie experience. People can bring snacks and blankets and stay socially distant while they watch a favorite film. This is a particularly good option if you live in a cul-de-sac, as you can include the neighborhood and worry little about cars passing through. If there are participants that you worry about maintaining social distance, it can be arranged like an actual drive-in, with people parking, watching, and playing the audio to the movie over an FM transmitter, which allows you to play any audio you like through your radio. Remember to keep it family-friendly if it will be being broadcast against the front of your house though, as you never know whose eyes may be watching.

A program of the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers