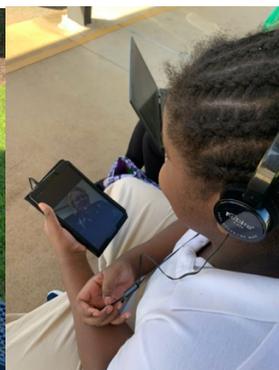


School-Based Update, October 2020

Since the closure of schools in March, our staff team has been working hard to keep as many matches connected as possible as we have had to navigate working from home as well. School closures while trying to stay connected have highlighted the disparity our Littles have with access to technology in all forms. Maintaining communication with our Littles has been tough and we want to thank you for your willingness to stick with your Little as we try to assist them through this pandemic. Now that school districts have presented return to school plans, our staff has been working with each of our four school systems on scenarios, plans, and options to keep each of you connected so your relationship can flourish. Each of our four counties are different and decisions have to be made from the top down. We have heard back from all school systems but not all plans are finalized. If your Little does not have updated/correct contact information from the school, please know the schools are trying to update our list with the new registration information so we can reach out and hopefully connect with them.

School-based Bigs will get more specific details via email. See below for an overview.

- Our current plan for **Baldwin County** is two-fold:
 1. For Littles attending in-person school, our Match Specialists will be taking devices on campus, getting the Littles out of class twice a week on a scheduled day and time, and connecting them with their Bigs via zoom.
 2. For our Littles attending virtual school, we are working to determine what each family is capable of connecting with since they cannot use their school devices.
- **Escambia County** is offering 3 ways for the students to return: In-person school, remote learning, and Virtual School.
- **Mobile County** is headed back to school in the month of October. We are in talks with the school system to allow a staff person on site twice a month to facilitate a virtual one to one interaction between a Big and Little if they are not going to allow visitors. Days and times will be provided by the school. Your Match Specialist will be in touch to let you know if your Little is returning to in-person school or staying virtual and will provide an agreement for this school year. In either case, we will be facilitating days and times to connect to your Little through a virtual platform.
- **Monroe County** is remote learning for the first 9 weeks and will be able to use their devices at a scheduled time and on a specific platform. We are working with the school to secure the days and time and will notify each match once secured. More information will follow, please contact your Match Specialist with any questions.



In Baldwin County, we have been able to reconnect Bigs & Littles and facilitate virtual conversations.



Community-Based Update, October 2020

For our Community-based participants: You have the option of continuing to communicate virtually or signing our waiver to carefully resume in person activities (both the Big and Parent/Guardian must sign the waiver to resume in person activities). We developed our guidelines with your suggestions and concerns along with state and local guidance. We are here to help you and respect the individual needs of each match. Please keep in mind your family and their well-being when determining if in person activity is in your Little's best interest.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Match Specialist.



- Check out [Mobile Parks & Recreation's Fall Guide](#) for lots of fun outdoor activities
- **Virtual Book Club** - Pick a book you and your Little have or can access. Read it and talk about it. If you discuss it via video chat, get a screenshot and share it with your match specialist.
- **Co-author a story** - Start a story of any kind, email or mail it to your Little, asking him/her to fill in the next paragraph or chapter (or even the next line) and send it back to you. Send it back and forth as long as you can keep it going! And, don't forget to share it with your match specialist!
- **Home tour** - If your Little has never visited your home, give him/her a virtual tour and have him/her do the same. Then, quiz each other and see if you can guess things, such as: Where do you spend the most time? What is the quietest spot in your house? What is your favorite food in the refrigerator at this time? Where do you keep your shoes?
- **Global treasure** - Find and send images or facts about places your Little might be interested in discovering. Then, he/she can do the same on another topic and teach YOU a few things.
- **House of Cards Challenge** - Build them simultaneously and check in as you go by video chat or phone. Or, create a competition by setting a timer. Don't forget to take a picture and send it to your match specialist!
- **Walk and chat at a park**- get outside in the beautiful Fall weather and catch up with each other while remaining socially distanced
- **Order take out, get ice cream or another treat, and eat outside at a picnic table**
- **Carve pumpkins or make a Fall craft outside**