VIRTUAL
Programming

Afterschool is a dynamic and flexible field and the learning environments it provides continue to adapt and evolve. As school-day classrooms incorporate more technology and digital learning, how must the role of afterschool adapt? What resources and support will empower afterschool educators to facilitate high-quality digital learning? The following practices will help program staff develop a digital format that allows youth to feel safe, creative, and engaged in new virtual experiences.

Virtual interactions can allow youth programs to cast their nets to a wider audience and engage participants in creative ways. However, online interactions pose risk to youth which must be considered in program design. These recommendations are intended to support youth programs in strengthening safety for youth while still delivering high-quality virtual programs.

Best Practices For Virtual Programming Online Safety

- Have a code of conduct
- Provide notice and solicit consent for online activities/video calls.
- Do not allow staff to share personal phone numbers, social media, or other 1:1 methods of contact with youth
  - (ex: Facebook Messenger, Slack, TikToc, Snap Chat, and Instagram)
- Monitor for appropriate use of social media, websites, and apps
- Teach and implement cyberbullying prevention strategies
- Design program activities to eliminate private unmonitored interactions

If you notice warning signs that a child may be involved in cyberbullying, take steps to investigate that child's digital behavior. (i.e. Notice, talk, document, report, & support).

The use of technology can present unique adult-to-youth and youth-to-youth abuse risks. Being able to recognize the dangers surrounding electronic communication can help your program prevent and respond to abuse stemming from social media.

Federal Trade Commission Consumer Information: Protecting Kids Online
Technology is advancing at ever increasing rates and kids don't miss a beat. It's important to stay ahead of the curve and be prepared. In this resource you will learn how to talk to your kids about online safety, setting boundaries, and set parental controls.
https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/protecting-kids-online

University of Washington: Code of Conduct
This resource can be used as a guide or an example template of a code of conduct.
https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/uw-s3-cdn/wp-content/uploads/sites/129/2019/07/24161602/UW-Conduct-Code-Standards-for-Interacting-with-Youth_generic-10-2019.pdf

Stopbully.gov: Cyberbullying
Cyberbullying happens all too often and many do not know the warning signs or how to handle cyberbullying situations. It's important to be informed and take a stand. Stopbullying.gov has tips on how to identify cyberbullying, address it, and prevent it so you can keep your kids safe.
https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it

American Camp Association: Online Tools for Running a Virtual Program
Are you planning on running a virtual program and are unsure of what platform to use? This site can help. It categorizes a plethora of platforms into their main function so you can find the right fit.
https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/virtual-program/online-tools

Utah Afterschool Network: Covid-19 Resources
UAN has searched far and wide to collect a vast amount online activities, resources, and curriculum on a variety of subjects. Come check it out, you won't be disappointed!
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AAYYSHxuiMiidRmSjvLHQcTHIH21Az2Y5q4TJ2RLu2g/edit?ts=5e711b07#gid=1002571658

Found in the Quality Tool   www.utahafterschool.org/quality

Both the Utah Quality Self Assessment Tool and the Weikart Center's Program Quality Assessment address best practices for programming that can be applied to virtual programs.

Quality Tool:
All but; Be Safe A-1: 6&11 Learn New Skills A2: 2&3
Program Quality Assessment:
All but, Healthy Environment, Emergency Preparedness, Accommodating Environment, Nourishment, Child-centered Space, Interaction with Adults 1-3, and Responsibility.