**Getting set up for video calling on your smartphone**

**What is video calling?**

A video call is just like a phone call, but you can also see the face of the person, or people, you’re speaking to.

Video calls can be made from your smartphone, but also from your computer or tablet.

It is important to remember that video calls use data whether it is mobile data (smartphone), or home internet data (computer or tablet).

**What equipment is needed?**

You already have all the equipment you need to make video calls on your smartphone!

If you are making a call from something other than your device, the key things you need are:

* A camera, or ‘webcam’, for capturing video.
* A microphone for talking into.
* Speakers for hearing the person you’re calling.

All these things are built into most new computing devices, including desktop computers, laptops, and tablets. If you have an older desktop computer it might not have web cameras. If this is the case, you can buy a separate webcam and plug it into your desktop computer.

You will also need the right application (or app).

**Video calling applications**

There are a number of video calling applications. Some of the best known are:

* Skype
* WhatsApp
* FaceTime
* Facebook Messenger
* Google Duo
* Video Relay Services (VRS)

Each of these applications can be downloaded for free from official App stores. FaceTime and Skype may come already installed your device. When you video chat with someone, they have to be using the same application as you. If you’re using Skype, you can’t call someone using WhatsApp, for example.

Not all video calling apps have the same accessibility features so you might need to try a few to see which one works best. You can also contact one of the resources included on the Resource page for recommendations specific to your needs.

**Does video calling cost money?**

The applications used for video calling do not usually cost money, however video calls use data. During a video call, it is important to remember that data is both downloaded and uploaded so you should make sure that your data plan is appropriate for your needs.

The amount of data used during a video call will depend on numerous factors including the specific application, the number of call participants and the duration of the call. To understand how much data each application uses, you should consult with the specific service.

Your wireless service provider and internet service provider also provide data usage tools so that you can better understand how much data you use, and manage any additional charges.

**How do I make a video call?**

How you make a video call will depend on the specific app you are using.

It is important to remember that:

1. The camera on your device is usually located just above the screen. With a smartphone, you hold it at a comfortable distance from your face. Usually you will be holding it tall-ways.
2. When talking during a video chat, just speak normally. You don’t need to shout.
3. The voice of the other person will come out through the speakers on your device. If you have trouble hearing them, you can turn up the volume using the volume buttons on your device.
4. How you find the contact of the person you are calling will depend on the app. Usually, you just choose a person’s name from the contact list on your device and press the video call button. The other person’s device will ring, and when they pick up you can start talking.