
Senior citizens are a high-risk population for many diseases. It is especially important that they form human connections safely. If your class or your local senior center are apprehensive about meeting in person, here are some patented **Blue Apple™** ways to help students and seniors connect!

Jailbirds During the pandemic, many people were disappointed to visit their relatives with a [window between them](#). Make this process more lighthearted by contacting senior centers in advance to have each senior citizen identify one prank or bit of trickery they got into when they were young. Then, pretend seniors are in prison for their prank, and have students come to pay them a visit. They will get to know the mischievous side of their new friends, and will turn a sad situation into a playful one.

ReZoom If you're restricted to teleconferencing, use the technology to make your interactions more fun and productive. Two great tips? Create a [virtual background](#) that connects with your senior friend's life history — add a movie or sports scene they might have watched, a historical event they might have experienced, or a location they might have visited. Also, use [automatic transcription](#) of your conversation so students don't have to worry about taking notes!

Get Carded! Introduce your students to the senior friends by creating [Blue Apple Baseball Cards](#) of each child. Add a picture of students doing something they love, and include some key "stats" that let students tell their life stories to seniors. If senior centers are willing to reciprocate, use a card exchange to help students and seniors get to know each other.

Make a Hat To reduce the risk of transmitting germs, meet at a fun outdoor location. Before the meeting, have students [engineer fun hats](#) or other creative devices that will enforce social distancing guidelines.

Float an Idea Who doesn't love a parade? Have your students introduce themselves to senior friends by creating a float or a costume that shows what's important to them. Then, route your parade past the senior center so that your new friends meet your students in a fun and socially distant way.