

FAMILY CHATROOM GUIDELINES



Family Chatrooms can be a wonderful way to keep in touch, share memories and celebrate special family milestones such as birthdays, anniversaries, special days such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparent's Day and achievements of the members.



A successful family chatroom where everyone feels seen, heard and valued requires lots of consideration of all members and planning. There's an ongoing commitment to the Admin to monitor and moderate the conversations to ensure everyone is being treated fairly so that the chat group and the family ties continue to thrive.

This is your planning document to help you get started on setting up a family chatroom with the right intentions so that it becomes a place of support for all of its members.

I recommend setting up several family chatrooms around special events for your family such as milestone birthdays and the days that honour your parents and other elders.

Some questions to consider before setting up your family chatroom or WhatsApp group are:

What is the purpose of the group?

Brainstorm the birthdays and special days coming up for your family and then decide whether you will start a group focused around this special day to help you come up with some thoughts, photos and videos to bring this day to life using technology.

For example, you may want to use your chat group to collect photos and videos to put together a special birthday video. This is something I do for all members of my family.



Who will be the members and admins?

When are good times for all members (considering geography and time zones) to have a collective chat?

My mum and brother do daily tea at 4PM Sydney time which happens to be 9AM in Istanbul where mum is. We are thinking of coming up with another time to catch up so we can include dad who's on the U.S. Eastern Time.



How often will you catch up with your family members?

We catch up weekly with dad on Wednesday mornings (Tuesday evening his time) because he used to have Tuesdays and Wednesdays off from work and could stay up later. My brother and I have daily catch up with mum for high tea.

Go ahead set up a family chat group and make it fun. Select a fun photo that represents your family, like maybe a photo from a major family event such as a birthday, anniversary, wedding or a graduation where everyone had a good time. You can also select an animal that you feel represents your family or if you're an artist, draw a coat of arms or a totem pole. Sky is the limit. Have fun with it.

Name your family chat group. As I tend to create Ad Hoc groups to celebrate birthdays and special days, I name my groups things like "Cousin's 40th Birthday" or "Happy Mother's Day". Whatever you do, don't take it too seriously. Have fun with it. Enjoy your family and your family chatroom!

If you need further assistance or have any questions, e-mail me Eda@WritePublishGrow.com
I'd be thrilled to help you get started with reconnecting with your family!