Up Your Virtual FEE*: A Tool for Distance Learning

Suggestions for Using the _Up your Virtual Fee_ Infographic in Work with Military Families

*FEE = Family Education and Engagement

Prepared by:

Karen Shirer, Ph.D. (Content author)
shire008@umn.edu

Jennifer Rea, Ph.D. (Infographic designer)
lance026@umn.edu

What we hope to achieve with this guide:

Describe a research-informed resource for designing effective virtual family life education & engagement

AND

Show how to use the infographic with family education and engagement.

You can access the infographic at:

[Up your Virtual Fee](#)

Up Your Virtual FEE*
- A Tool for
Distance Learning

A Tool for Military Family Service Providers and
Family Life Educators for Applying Distance
Education Learning Theories

What is FEE?

Background for the *Up Your Virtual FEE - A Tool for Distance Learning*

Read the **Summary of the Unpublished Evaluation Report** for background information on the tool. The infographic was developed from the evaluation of a virtual learning network.

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Overview of the Tool's Content

- Definition of FEE (family engagement and education)
- Theories highlighted in the Tool
  - Community of Inquiry: the three presences of teaching, social and content are important ingredients of all FEEs
  - Learning theories : 1) behavioral-cognitive; 2) social cognitive-constructivist; and 3) connectivism
- Best practices for applying the learning theories and maximizing the teaching, social and content presences. Things to consider before, during and after each virtual learning experience or event.
- Contact information and credits

How to use the infographic in your own virtual work with families

1. Identify an example of a virtual FEE you've already implemented or one that you would like to try.

2. What is the goal of the FEE you have in mind? The goal will help you determine the learning theory that best fits the experience to start your planning.

How to use … continues on next three pages.

3.   Review the learning theories and decide which one best fits your goal. Likely, you will want to use more than one. Check all that apply.

- Behavioral/Cognitive: use if the goal is to provide technical, factual or specific information to the learner. This theory works well with the other two theories.
- Social Cognitive/Constructivism: use if the goal is for learners to apply the information they are learning to their lives. Often combined with behavioral/cognitive. Content is a balance of information-giving and social engagement activities.
- Connectivism: use if the goal is for learners to select their own learning goal and use the Internet to connect with others and find information to achieve their goal.

4. **Consider the three presences when planning your virtual experience:**

Teaching: This presence is highly important for all three group of learning theories. Teaching involves planning both the content and social presences of the event, and then assessing the event's effectiveness.

Content: This presence includes both the subject matter or information, and the social interactive activities for the experience. You want to select information-giving activities as well as social interaction activities that will help learners discuss, reflect on and apply the information.

Social: This presence involves identifying and designing ways to involve learners in the experience. You can use case studies, a question, or a graphic to launch discussion, to name a few. The infographic has suggestions for promoting interaction in a virtual environment.

5.   Read through the infographic to determine what you need to do before, during and after the experience. Be sure to pre-plan as much as you are able and write out your plan.

6.   Implement the event. Be flexible — activities will take longer than you likely anticipate.

7.   Reflect on the experience and learn all you can for the next one!

What do you think about …

- The infographic?
- How can we make it more user friendly?
- How might you use to improve your virtual family engagement and education programs?
- Other feedback?

You can contact or either us with your thoughts and questions.

For content questions:

Karen Shirer, Ph.D., Educational Program Specialist, MFLN-Family Transitions, University of Minnesota Extension, shire008@umn.edu

For the infographic design questions:

Jennifer Rea, Ph.D., Independent Consultant, MFLN- Family Transitions, lance026@umn.edu

Additional Information:

[Up Your Virtual FEE](#) Infographic (includes hot links)

[Military Family Learning Network](#)

   [Family Transitions](#)

Credits