**Using Talking Mats virtually with two devices**

Using a second device on a virtual Talking Mat session can help you to capture the thinker’s reaction to the mat and symbols. This can be particularly useful for recording videos to watch again later. To do this on a tablet or mobile device:

1. Download the Talking Mats app from the Google Play store (Android) or app store (iPad).
2. Ensure you have your preferred communication platforms app (Zoom, Microsoft teams) installed on your device. At present, Attend Anywhere/Near Me does not allow screen sharing if using a tablet/mobile device and so this method will not be possible if using that platform.
3. Use your communication app to schedule a meeting for a time of your choice.
4. Using the ‘share meeting’ /‘ invite participants’ option in your communication app, send the meeting ID to the person who you will be doing the Talking Mat with.
5. Then, use the ‘share meeting’ option to send the meeting ID to yourself. For example, through email.

When it is time for your meeting:

1. Open the Talking Mat app on your first device and prepare the symbol set you would like to use. When you are finished, minimise this app.
2. On the same device, open your communication app (Zoom, Microsoft teams) and join your meeting.
3. Click ‘share’ and ‘screen’. Then switch to the Talking Mats app. You should be able to control the Talking Mat while other people in the meeting can see it. It is advised you mute your volume to avoid interference.
4. On your **second device** (This could be a laptop, tablet or mobile) use the meeting ID that you sent to yourself to join the zoom meeting.
5. On your second device, there is an option to split the screen so you can see both the thinker and the Talking Mat at the same time.
6. If you are using a PC or laptop as your second device there may be an option to record the session if you wish to do so.

In summary, the two devices fulfil the following functions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Device One (Tablet or mobile)** | **Device two (Tablet, mobile or PC)** |
| Used to control the Talking Mat | Acts as a second guest in the zoom meeting |
| Hosts the Zoom or Teams meeting and shares screen with the mat on | Allows you to view the mat and thinker at the same time |
|  | Allows you to record the session (some apps) |

**My experience of using the Talking Mats app on teams remotely – Jan 2021**

 Here is Heather and I doing a mat remotely about her feelings about leisure at home in lock down. I had to place the symbols which is not ideal but it still works.



1 I set up the teams meeting and send an invite to me on ipad and to heather

2. Opened up the digital Talking Mats on my Ipad (will also work on android too if the app is compatible but android is a complex market basically if Talking Mats shows on your google stores it will wqork on your android).

3. Opened up the meeting on my laptop, Heather joined and I also joined on my ipad

4. On my ipad I shared my screen – minimsed the teams meeting and shared the Talking Mats mat which now appeared for both Heather and I on our laptops, I could see her and the Talking Mat.

5. Then I had a Talking Mats conversation with Heather but I had to place the symbols – you may need other supports to help people with communication disability tell you were they go e.g signing or a prepared visual scale that is sent to the thinker.