Opportunities for peer mentoring, as youth value interactions with peers who share chronic conditions and lived experiences. Utilizing moderators/facilitators who can model positive behaviour, troubleshoot, and provide a sense of safety and order online.

Incorporating familiar or popular recreational components to increase youth engagement (i.e., Minecraft).

Creating virtual spaces that are optimally conductive to initiating and maintaining friendships for children and youth with disabilities.

**Research Question**

What strategies can inform the intentional design of, and access to, virtual spaces and experiences that afford opportunities to form friendships for children and youth with diverse disabilities?

**Methods**

A literature search of 4 databases (Medline, Embase, Scopus, ERIC) was conducted following the Arksey and O’Malley’s methodological framework for scoping reviews. 10,419 records were identified and screened by 3 researchers using a predetermined inclusion-exclusion criteria. A preliminary thematic analysis was conducted.

**Conclusions**

Virtual spaces provide unique and accessible opportunities to connect socially. Interventions which incorporate peer mentorship, utilize moderators, and employ well-known recreational activities may be optimal for virtual friendship formation and sustainability.

**Relevance**

Social connection is a crucial aspect of a child's growth and development. Virtual spaces can remove geographic and environmental barriers that persons with disabilities might otherwise encounter when making friends. This review may guide service providers on the design and access to online spaces which provide children opportunities to make meaningful friendships.

**References**