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## Using Twitter

Using Twitter is a great way to get information out to people.

There are 200 million active users on Twitter.

You can use Twitter to get short messages out to people very quickly.

Managing your Twitter account doesn't need to be a full time job.

If you put together some guidelines and tweet every day, it is easy and effective to use.

There are many helpful tips for beginners on the Internet.

The questions people ask most often about Twitter are who does it, when, and how often?

Here are some answers to those questions and some tips to make using Twitter easy.



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## Remember that this is a public space

***Your profile says who you are*** | Your Twitter profile is often the first impression you make on new members and others.

Make sure you remember that when you say something on Twitter, you're saying it to the whole world.

***Who?*** | Make sure you choose the right person in the group to manage your Twitter account.

The person will need to know a lot about your group and be good at communicating.

***What will you say...?*** | You might also spend a little time as a team thinking about things you will say.

For example, come up with some lines that you can use again such as "New resource for X" or "Looking for information on Y?"

***Be useful*** | Make sure that what you Tweet is useful to new members or others.

A group Twitter account might not be the best place to share your thoughts and opinions.



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## Think before you speak

***Have a plan*** | Your Twitter account will need a plan.

What types of resources or information do you want to share?

What information do your audiences need?

Can you have a theme of the week or the month?

***Have a social media policy*** | It's also a good idea to make a social media policy to guide you.

This lets people know what type of posts you'll be making and what types of answers (from them) are acceptable (or not!).

***We all get by with a little help from our friends*** | Twitter is a social medium – you need friends to make it work!

Before you send your first tweet, find out who is already tweeting on your topic and 'follow' them to learn (even if they're the competition).

Also follow other support groups and organisations to develop your network.



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## **Tweet the way you eat**

***Tweet often*** | The best way to tell people about your group is to use Twitter regularly.

Research has shown that tweeting from **2-5 times per day** has the best impact.

**We suggest that you tweet at least once per day.**

You might even just work your way through your website, tweeting a page or a resource at a time.

***Make Twitter a habit*** | If you're going to be successful, you need to create a habit of tweeting.

Every time you check your email, check Twitter.

Some people might do this at the beginning, middle, and end of the day (like breakfast, lunch, and dinner).

Others may check throughout the day, checking email and news sources after each activity or meeting.

Add in a few minutes on Twitter each time.



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**Extra Resources - Twitter Tips for**

**Beginners: <http://goinswriter.com/twitter-tips-for-beginners/>**

**Complete Guide to Twitter Hashtags in Education:**

**<http://www.teachthought.com/technology/the-complete-guide-to-twitter-hashtags-in-education/>**

**The Ultimate Guide To Using Twitter In Education:**

**<http://www.edudemic.com/twitter-in-education/>**

*Adapted from NICHCY's Quick Tips for Disseminators series*

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New and Existing Support Group Development, Telephone Information Line,  
Information Forums, Facilities and Equipment Hire

On-line Directory of Support Groups and Community Organisations, E-News

**People With disabilities WA:**

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