

e-Buddies®

Friendships Through Technology

A Best Buddies International Program



Welcome to e-Buddies, the newest and most innovative friendship program from Best Buddies! e-Buddies proves to the world that people with intellectual disabilities are capable not only of having meaningful friendships, but also of participating in the world of technology.

What is e-Buddies?

e-Buddies pairs a person with an intellectual disability in a one-to-one e-mail friendship with a peer volunteer who does not have a disability.

What do e-Buddies do?

e-Buddies participants agree to e-mail each other once a week for at least one year. Of course, many of our participants enjoy the e-mail friendship so much, they e-mail each other everyday.

How old do I need to be to join e-Buddies?

You must be at least 10 years old to participate.

Do I need my parent's permission to participate?

If you are under age 18, you do need to have your parent's permission to join e-Buddies. If you are over the age of 18, have an intellectual disability, and a legal guardian, you need your guardian's permission to join e-Buddies. The sign-up form will guide you through the process of getting your parent or guardian's permission.

Does e-Buddies cost anything?

e-Buddies is always free for people with intellectual disabilities. Because we are a nonprofit organization, we do charge non-disabled volunteers who are 18 years old or higher a one-time \$50 fee. This fee helps cover the costs of checking background, contacting references, and processing applications.

Is it safe to participate in e-Buddies?

Best Buddies is committed to doing all we can to make e-Buddies a fun, fulfilling, and safe experience. This is why we screen all applicants and require parental permission for those under 18. We also require all participants to agree to a code of conduct that prohibits the exchange of addresses and telephone numbers, the transmittal of inappropriate content, and the transmittal of any attachments. Our e-mail system allows e-Buddies to communicate without exchanging their actual e-mail addresses, and also allows Best Buddies staff to track all e-mail exchanges between e-Buddies. In-person meetings are prohibited, unless arranged by a Best Buddies staff member.

To join e-Buddies today, visit www.ebuddies.org and complete the easy online application.

Questions? Click on "Contact Us" on the e-Buddies homepage and find your state!