

e-Buddies®

Friendships Through Technology

A Best Buddies International Program



Welcome to e-Buddies, the newest friendship program from Best Buddies!

What is e-Buddies?

e-Buddies is an e-mail pen pal program that pairs persons with an intellectual disability in one-to-one e-mail friendships with peer volunteers who do not have an intellectual disability.

What do e-Buddies do?

e-Buddies participants simply exchange e-mails 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 every day!

Why should I join e-Buddies?

e-Buddies is a fun and safe way to make a new friend, while also providing an opportunity to develop computer skills, fine and gross motor skills, communication skills, reading and writing skills, and social skills.

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

e-Buddies is open to all applicants 10 years old and up. You can never be too old to be an e-Buddy!

How much does e-Buddies cost?

e-Buddies is always free for people with intellectual disabilities.

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. We fully appreciate the risks involved with online communication. For that reason, we employ a multi-layered approach to minimize risk and ensure the safety of our participants.

- All e-Buddies participants must to agree to our Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct prohibits the exchange of mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and otherwise inappropriate content. In-person meetings are prohibited and matches are never made between participants in the same state. Violating the Code of Conduct can result in immediate dismissal from e-Buddies.
- All e-Buddies applicants are screened before they can participate in e-Buddies. Each applicant must submit to a background check, and must also provide references to be contacted by our staff.
- All e-mails between e-Buddies are sent via ebuddies.org. This allows participants to e-mail their e-Buddy without divulging their personal e-mail address. E-mail content is filtered automatically, and all e-mail exchanges are archived and available for review by our staff in the event of inappropriate or suspicious activity.
- To protect your privacy, all application data is stored on a secure server. Best Buddies NEVER shares participant data with third parties.

How do I join e-Buddies?

Simply visit www.ebuddies.org and click on "Join e-Buddies!" to complete our easy online application.

Questions? Please visit www.ebuddies.org for more information!