



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.

PRIVACY POLICY

Best Buddies respects the privacy of all e-Buddies participants. We will not divulge any information about participants to any third party, nor will we share our mailing list with any other groups or individuals. All information gathered by Best Buddies is maintained on a secure server.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Best Buddies requires all participants to agree to the e-Buddies Code of Conduct. Violating the e-Buddies Code of Conduct can result in immediate dismissal from e-Buddies.

The Code of Conduct prohibits the exchange of home addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers. Also prohibited are the transmittal of pornographic information and the exchange of e-mail attachments. In-person meetings are prohibited, unless arranged by a Best Buddies staff member.

SCREENING APPLICANTS

All e-Buddies applicants agree to submit to background checks, and the Best Buddies staff contacts references for all applicants before they can be approved to participate in e-Buddies.

E-BUDDIES E-MAIL SYSTEM

All e-Buddies communication occurs using the e-Buddies E-mail System. E-mails are sent through ebuddies.org, where they are sorted and delivered to the appropriate participant. Only e-mails from actively matched e-Buddies participants will be delivered.

The E-mail System allows participants to e-mail their e-Buddy without divulging their real e-mail address, and allows Best Buddies to filter, archive, and review all e-mail exchanges.

MONITORING E-MAILS

Best Buddies retains a copy of every e-mail exchanged between matched e-Buddies. Best Buddies does not actively read every e-mail exchange, but all e-mails are filtered for content and are available for review in the event of inappropriate or suspicious communications.

RESTRICTION ON IN-PERSON MEETINGS

All e-Buddies communication must be conducted by e-mail, and in-person meetings between e-Buddies participants are prohibited, unless directly facilitated by Best Buddies.

SAME-STATE MATCHES

To further ensure that all communication is conducted via e-mail, Best Buddies does not match e-Buddies participants that live in the same state.

Best Buddies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.

e-Buddies is an e-mail pen pal program that pairs persons with an intellectual disability in one-to-one e-mail friendships with a peer volunteer who does not have a disability. For more information about e-Buddies, please visit www.ebuddies.org.