

BEST BUDDIES®



e-Buddies Statement of Needs and Outcomes

STUDIES SHOW:

“Language difficulties were the characteristic most frequently mentioned by typical children of their friends who have disabilities.”

Education and Training in Developmental Disabilities; Lee, Yoo, and Bak; 2003

HOW E-BUDDIES HELPS:

“My students have difficulty maintaining friendships for various reasons. Speech problems may interfere with communication or students' conversational skills may be inadequate. These problems do not translate to the computer.”

*Jeanne Sabol
Ohio Special Education Teacher*

STUDIES SHOW:

“Children with disabilities, particularly children with learning disabilities and mental retardation, are more vulnerable to feelings of loneliness than their peers without disabilities.”

Loneliness in Children with Disabilities; Pavri; 2001

HOW E-BUDDIES HELPS:

“Ryan has been having the BEST time writing to his e-Buddy in Florida! It was a perfect match. His buddy has a horse and some other pets and Ryan wants to open a pet store. They talk animals as much as anything else. He has never done so much writing in his life and never before has he cared about his spelling.

Thank you!!!!!!”

*Holly Carol
Massachusetts Special Education Teacher*

STUDIES SHOW:

“[Adults with intellectual disabilities’] social networks are highly restricted with regard to friendships and, in particular, likely to involve very few meaningful relationships with people who do not have mental retardation, are not relatives, and who are not paid to support them.”

Social Networks of People with Mental Retardation in Residential Settings; Robertson, et. al.; 2001

HOW E-BUDDIES HELPS:

“I just love Michele a lot. We write each other everyday. Her friendship means so much to me and others like me. It has opened a door to a lasting relationship for Michele and I. Thank you so much for the right to share what goes on in my life with someone else. I would not have my friend Michele without being a part of this wonderful and giving program.”

Gloria Silverman, Maryland e-Buddy

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STUDIES SHOW:

“Friendships are critical to the happiness and well being of people and to the likelihood that they will be successful in community living. Friends are more important to happiness and quality of life than being competent at [life skills].”

The Canadian Journal on Mental Retardation; Strully and Strully; 1985

HOW E-BUDDIES HELPS:

“I live by myself and do not get a lot of visitors. e-Buddies gives me a chance to tell about my life and what I do everyday. e-mail has helped me to open up a lot more about how I feel inside, and now I feel great and better than I have in years.”

Daniel Thompson, West Virginia e-Buddy

STUDIES SHOW:

“Disabled Americans face unique challenges as they consider using the Internet, but they can also reap rewards for going online.”

The Ever-shifting Internet Population, published in April 2003 by the Pew Internet and American Life Project

HOW E-BUDDIES HELPS:

“Because of e-Buddies, e-mail has become something I look forward to, and the computer has become a way for me to make friends.”

Joshua Handler, New Jersey e-Buddy