

# PEER POWER

## Tips for a Successful Time With Your Peer Buddy

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ communicates by:

**Teacher:**  
**Circle the**  
**communication**  
**mode**

Gestures (sign language,  
waving, eye contact)

Pointing to pictures

Augmentative  
Communication  
System

Repeating words

Words and sentences

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting started with your buddy

- Get your buddy's attention before talking to them. You can:
  - Say their name
  - Tap their shoulder
  - Ask them to look at you
  - Try again if they don't respond to you the first time
- Give compliments/praise to your buddy such as "I like your picture," "Nice taking turns," or give a high five. You might be asked to give them a token or stickers. Tokens and stickers are a way to tell your buddy they are doing a good job at the activity.
- Provide help to your buddy if needed, but not too much help! Give the least amount of assistance that your buddy needs in order to participate or complete the game or activity.
- Sit close to your buddy. If your buddy moves away from you, follow and encourage them to return. If your buddy doesn't return, ask for help from an adult.
- If your buddy gets frustrated or has problems participating, ask for help from an adult.

### Now that you have had some time with your buddy, here are more ideas to have fun and help your buddy learn new things!

- Teach your buddy to look at you by saying, "Hi" and, "Goodbye" frequently. Remember to get their attention and wait for a response.
- If you have difficulty understanding your buddy when they are speaking, give your buddy two choices to select from, relying less on talking.
- You may be given pictures to use so your buddy can point to what they want. Pictures are a good way for your buddy to communicate with you.
- You may be asked to use a sequence strip to help your buddy know what is next. Use the sequence strip by pointing to the picture on the strip.
- Show your buddy what "to do." Examples:
  - If you want your buddy to match cards, show them by matching the card first and then wait for their response.
  - If you want your buddy to copy you while jumping, model jumping and then wait for your buddy to jump. You may need to model jumping 2 or 3 times.
- Tell your buddy about what you are doing using a few words. Examples:
  - When playing with dinosaurs you can say, "I have a big dinosaur!"
  - When sharing toys with your buddy say, "Your turn."
  - During snack time say, "Yum!"