

CONNECTING WITH PEERS AT RECESS AND LUNCH HOUR

There are lots of opportunities to encourage social connections between students with special needs and their peers both at recess time and during the lunch hour. This includes peers from their own classroom as well as other students from the school at large.

Following are some ideas brainstormed by school teams around BC to help their students be more actively involved. Will any of them work for your student? If not, how can you change them to help your student both make and keep friends?

Outdoor Recess/Lunch Hour

- Swing
- Skipping Rope – songs on BIGmack/Step-by-Step
- Litter patrol
- Ball - passing, throwing, rolling
 - down a PVC chute
- Hopscotch - drop object for others
 - call out a number using BIGmack/Step-by-Step
- In charge of equipment
- Bubbles
- Acts of random kindness
- Surveys - questions on BIGmack/Step-by-Step to help older students
- Games such as "Simon Says", "What Time Is It Mister Wolf ?", "Go, Go, Stop" - instructions on BIGmack/Step-by-Step
- North Wind/South Wind – tag game - North wind freezes students and the south wind thaws them. Your student is a south wind so the other students are calling him/her to come over and "thaw" them.
- Share recess snacks
- Ordering information on BIGmack/Step-by-Step for lunch program
- Student and peer both hold onto a hoop; peer pulls student around the playground

Indoor Recess/Lunch Hour

- Playing board games or Twister using spinner
- Active games – "Red Light, Green Light", Simon Says", etc. with instructions on BIGmack/Step-by-Step
- Bubbles
- Surveys to help intermediate students do projects
- Arts and crafts – holiday decorations using sponges or Paint 'N Swirl
- Bowling – PVC piping chute from tray to floor
- Singing – sound effects or repeated verse on BIGmack/Step-by-Step
- Jokes on BIGmack/Step-by-Step
- Announce fundraising
- Buddy reading

- Message on BIGmack/Step-by-Step re: concession or upcoming events
- Music – student help with choice of instruments
- Computer with buddy
- Video
- Communicate with students using “All About Me” book
- Popcorn making with switch and Powerlink
- Floor wheelchair hockey
- Student and peer both hold onto a hoop; peer pulls student around the gym
- Catch – bean bag/Beanie Babies and ball games with different balls - varying sizes, weights, sounds, colours and textures
- Dancing in the gym
- Playing/controlling music and/or games using switch
- Gym equipment monitor/collector
- Mail delivery for teachers/students