

Disability Awareness

Buddy Baseball Training



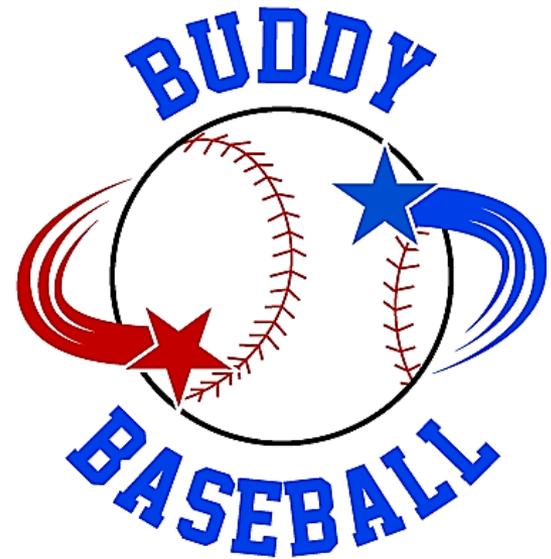
*Boys & Girls with Special Needs
Playing Ball with a "Buddy"*

www.BuddyBaseball.org



Why Disability Awareness Training?

- Provides information that will allow you to interact more effectively with people with disabilities.
- Provides basic tips on interacting with persons with disabilities.



Defining Disability



The term "disability" means: a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities, for example, walking, thinking, seeing, speaking or hearing.

Different Types of Disability



Hearing
Mobility
Cognitive
Visual



Speech / Communication
Learning

Mental Health / Emotional
Health Conditions



Unfortunately, and inaccurately, people with disabilities are often viewed as:

- Victims, or objects of pity
- Burdens, either on society or on their families and careers
- A threat to the comfort and safety of others
- Unable, or assumed to be unable, to do things
- Having multiple disabilities (such as assuming that a person who uses a wheelchair also has an intellectual disability)
- Childlike
- “Special”

Such misconceptions are based on insufficient or inaccurate information about people with disabilities and can perpetuate inappropriate interactions.

Other common stereotypes...

- People who are blind or have low vision may wear glasses
- People who are deaf may have excellent speech and read lips, but not all
- Not all people that use wheelchairs are completely paralyzed – some may transfer or be able to walk short distances
- Delayed or slow speech is not necessarily a sign of a slowed mental process
- Persons with learning disabilities can be highly intelligent individuals they simply have a different way of learning

Tips on Interacting with Persons with Disabilities

People First Language



- Language that is sensitive and accurate
- Language that puts the focus on the individual NOT the disability

Examples of People First Language

<u>Say:</u>	<u>Instead of:</u>
People with disabilities	The handicapped or disabled
She has autism	She's autistic
He has Down syndrome	He's Down's
Wheelchair User	Wheelchair Bound
She has a learning disability	She's learning disabled
Person with a developmental /cognitive / intellectual disability	Retarded, mentally defective,
Children without disabilities*	Typical developing

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity



CHARACTERISTICS:

- Inattention
- Hyperactivity
- Impulsiveness
- Fails to follow instructions

Learning Disabilities



Difficulties in:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Reasoning
- Mathematical ability
- Short term memory
- Sequencing & abstract reasoning

Learning Disabilities

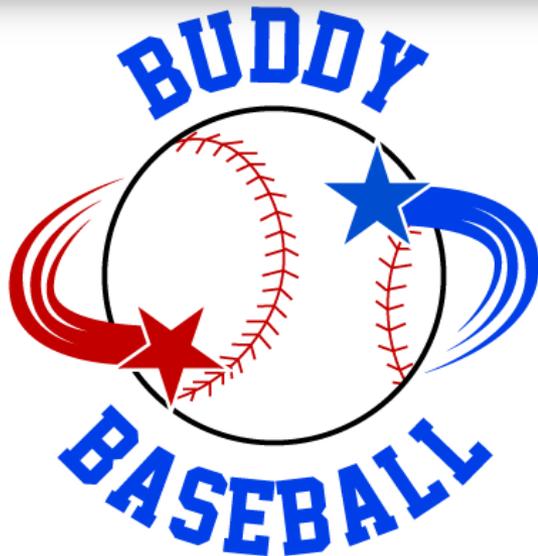


A learning disability has to do with the way the brain is wired. People who are LD have normal or above normal intelligence, cannot be cured, but use different ways to learn and function.

CHALLENGES:

- Interpreting
- Translating
- Recalling
- Social interactions

Blind/Vision Impaired



TIPS:

- Provide information beforehand
- Involve other senses
- Tactile materials
- Ask how you may assist
- Use audio description

Tips for Communicating with Individuals who are Blind or have Low Vision

- When approaching state clearly who you are, speaking in a normal tone of voice. Do not shout.
- When conversing in a group, remember to identify yourself and the person to whom you are speaking.
- Tell the individual when you are leaving.

Brain Disorders



CHARACTERISTICS:

**Interferes with
persons ability to:**

- Think
- Feel
- Relate to others
and environment
- Depression/ anxiety

TIPS

Instructional

- Call by name
- Be consistent
- Use visual clues
- Be clear and concise with directions

Behavioral

- Positive remarks
- Keep routine
- Assist player in communicating their needs
- Allow independence



Tips for Communicating with Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- Gain the person's attention before starting a conversation (i.e. gently wave your hand in their line of vision or tap the person gently on the shoulder or arm)
- If the individual uses a sign language interpreter, speak directly to the person, not the interpreter
- Know that some people who are deaf speak quite clearly and then others are non-verbal
- When speaking with someone who reads lips, look directly at the individual, face the light, speak clearly, in a normal tone of voice and keep your hands away from your face. Avoid chewing gum.

Developmental Disorders



Conditions as:

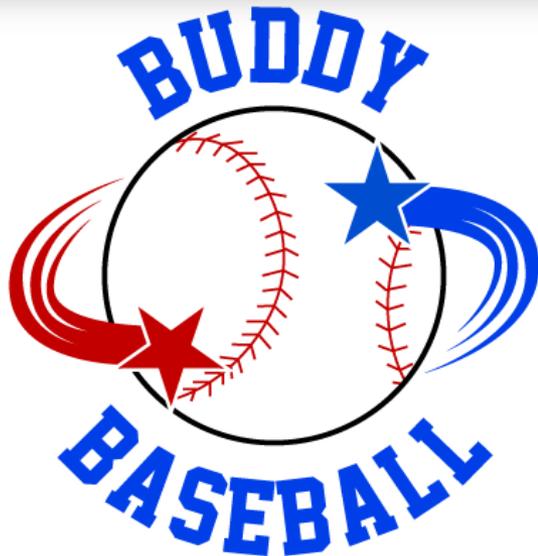
Down Syndrome

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Characteristics:

- Low cognitive development
- Brief retention span
- Communication difficulties
- May be immature
- Difficulty with changes

Autism Spectrum Disorder



CHARACTERISTICS:

- May seem to live in their own world
- Uneven patterns on intellectual functioning
- May be “expert” in one area
- May have no fears
- Excessive attachments to objects

Tips for Communicating with Individuals with **Intellectual Disabilities**

- Speak to the individual directly with simple to understand directions without being patronizing and in a normal tone of voice.
- Be prepared to repeat what you say.
- Praise often
- Know needs of player

Tips for Communicating with Individuals with Speech Impairments

- If you do not understand something the individual says, do not pretend that you do. Ask the individual to repeat what he or she said and then repeat it back.
- Be patient and concentrate on what the individual is saying. Take as much time as necessary
- Do not speak for the individual or attempt to finish her or his sentences.
- If you are having difficulty understanding the individual ask for assistance.

Emotionally Disabled



Characteristics:

- Attention-getting behavior
- Low self-esteem
- Poor impulse control
- Low attention span
- Can be withdrawn
- Problems working in groups
- Can be aggressive

Mobility Impairments



CONDITIONS AS:

- Cerebral palsy
- Spinal cord injury
- Stroke
- Arthritis
- Muscular dystrophy
- Amputations
- Polio
- Spina Bifida

Mobility Impairments



TIPS:

- Wheelchair is an extension of the persons body. Do not lean on the chair.
- Be on eye level when speaking
- Ask person if they want assistance and how can you assist.

TIPS

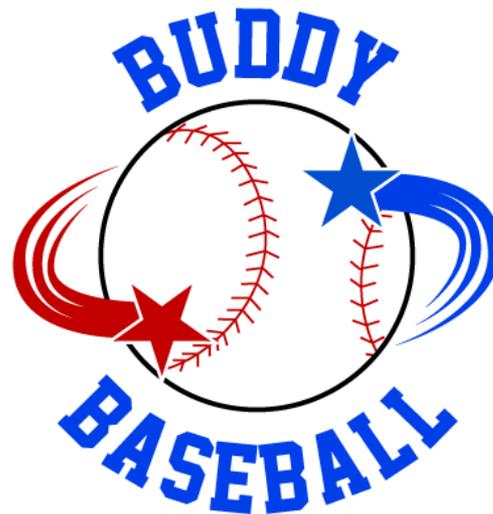
- Read the Player bio – so you can get to know them
- Try to find what the Player likes and what they can do
- Tell your Player what's going on in the game
- Pay Attention!!! Help your Player know what is going on
- Listen to the Coaches and talk to your Player's parents for tips
- Get to the game 15 minutes early so you are ready for your Player
- Sit with your Player in the dugout, until you are ready to bat

ASK FIRST - If you offer assistance, (always ask before assisting someone).

When appropriate, wait until the offer is accepted. Then ask the individual with a disability for instructions on how you may assist them.

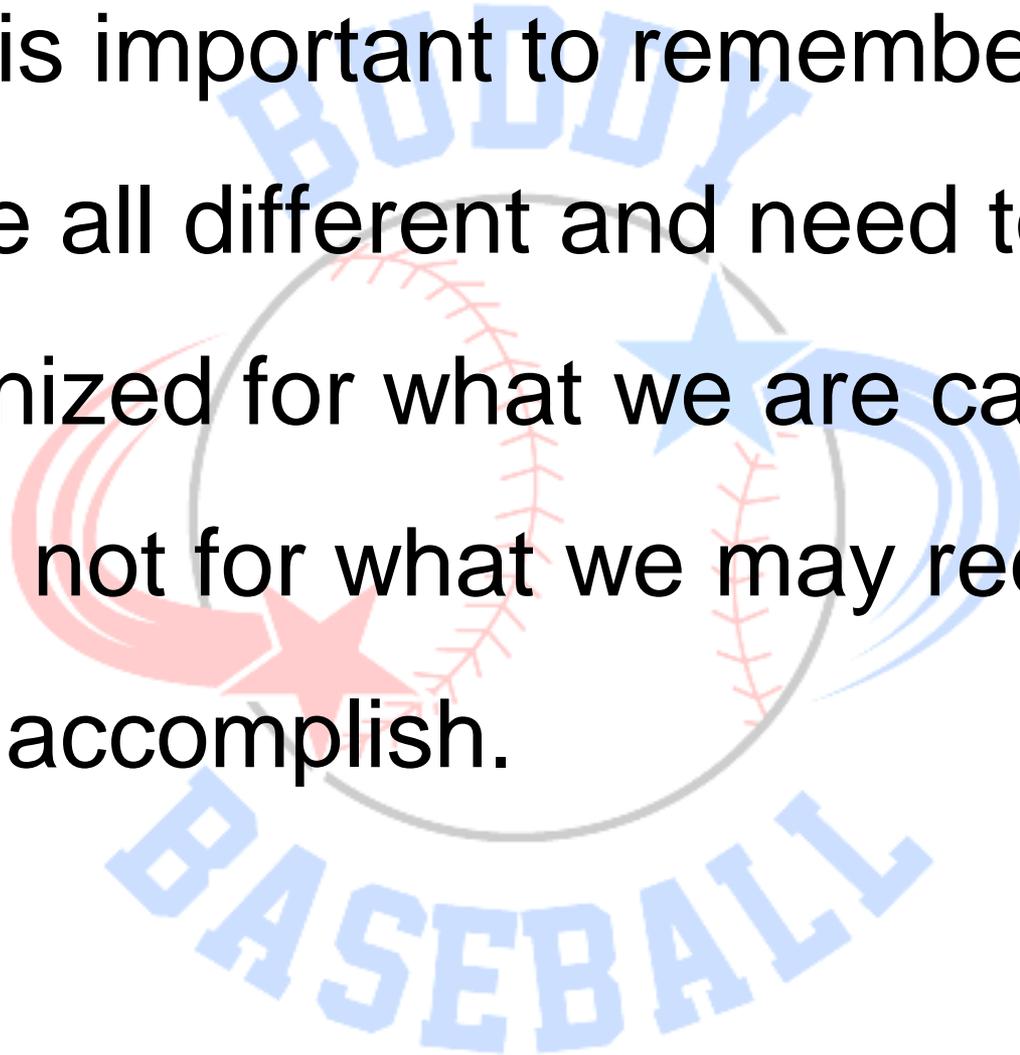
Disability Etiquette

Do not spend too much time worrying over your words or behavior, just interact and be friendly and helpful.



All People Are Different

What is important to remember is that we are all different and need to be recognized for what we are capable of doing, not for what we may require aid to accomplish.



Disability Awareness

Buddy Baseball Training

*Boys & Girls with Special Needs
Playing Ball with a "Buddy"*

www.BuddyBaseball.org

