

Buddy Programme

How does it work for Young Buddies?

The Buddy programme is a free one-on-one mentoring programme run by Family Works.

The buddy programme matches young people aged 4 - 12 with an adult volunteer. It has been operating successfully for more than 25 years. Safety is a high priority, all our procedures, practice, and policies ensure this.

We love what we do and are passionate about helping young people.

Spending a couple of hours a week sharing everyday, no or low cost activities can make a positive difference to a child.



Benefits for the Young Buddies:

- Regular contact with a trustworthy friend who encourages positive values, interests, attitudes and behaviour
- Time out from family responsibilities / demands
- Experience different environments, such as a farm or the University campus
- Experience your community and explore places like the library, the pool, museums, beaches and parks
- Having some FUN with their new adult Buddy

“Every week I had this cool person that would pick me up and take me out somewhere.”



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How do Buddies get matched?

Adult buddies are carefully selected and trained, a process including 2 interviews, 4 reference checks, a police check and a home visit. They have regular ongoing support and training with the buddy coordinator.

We interview you and your child to decide if the child will benefit from the buddy programme, or another programme might be better suited.

We select a suitable adult buddy who shares the same interest and personality etc. with your child.

We introduce you and your child to the new buddy. This takes about 20 minutes and from here the first outing is planned.

The first 4 - 6 weeks is a trial. At the end of 12 months the agreement is reviewed and we all decide to extend or end the match. We find the longer a match goes, the more the child benefits.

You and your child can stop at any time if we can't help resolve an issue or you feel buddying is not for them.

"She was only there for me, and not other family members, so if something happened I could share without worrying it would get back to family."



Where are we based?

The Buddy Programme is based in Wanaka, Cromwell, Alexandra, Oamaru, East Otago, Balclutha, Taieri and Dunedin.