**IDENTIFY THE NETWORKS YOU ALREADY HAVE**



**or work, community**

**IDENTIFY WHERE PEOPLE GO REGULARLY   
WHO SHARE YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS’ INTERESTS:** Adapted from “Community Connecting” by Michelle Livesley, Carl Poll, Jo Kennedy and Helen Sanderson.

**BE PREPARED TO SHARE WHAT PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FAMILY MEMBER**

* **What are the top 3 things people need to know about your family member in social situations?**
* **These strategies work for my family member when…**
* **Prepare how you will explain some of your family member’s differences, in a way that is empowering and inviting**

Developed by Brittany Antuna and Ingrid Flory for “Supporting Friendship: a workshop for parents, by parents”

**WAYS TO USE YOUR IEP   
TO PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP**

***Remember:   
The school is responsible for your child’s social and emotional progress,   
not only their academic progress!***

* Put friendship in your parent’s concerns, and make it a topic of discussion at every Team meeting.
* Have the school provide the supports and accommodations that your child needs to meaningfully participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities.
* Ask for a goal related to social communication or social/emotional skills
* Help organize a club or team at school on a topic of interest to your child
* Expand the reach of a “lunch bunch” or social group by having the teacher ask permission to share contact information so that friendships can expand beyond the school day.
* Ask for a disability awareness program to be provided at your school, or have them provide one specific to your child.
* Make sure that paraprofessional support is supportive, not intrusive, of friendships. Use them to structure activities that allow your child to fully participate socially.
* Consider asking other kids what would make it more enjoyable to be friends with your child so you can prioritize the social skills to work on in their IEP.
* Ask your school district to pay for inclusive camps or recreational opportunities as part of Extended School Year, particularly if your child’s needs are primarily social

Developed by Ingrid Flory, Educational Advocate, for “Supporting Friendship: a workshop for parents, by parents”

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| Recommended Resources on Social Inclusion & Friendship **title** | **author** | **description** |
| **101 Ways to Facilitate Making Friends** | Aaron Johannes, Jim Reynolds, Susan Stanfield | How to engage and deepen support networks for people with disabilities |
| **150 Things You Can Do to Build Social Capital** | Harvard Kennedy School Saguaro Seminar | Free download: <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/saguaro/whatyoucando.htm> |
| **A Brief Introduction to Social Role Valorization** | Wolf Wolfensberger | A classic work on how to address the plight of societally devalued people |
| **Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community’s Assets** | John Kretzmann & John McKnight | Online Summary: <http://www.nhi.org/online/issues/83/buildcomm.html> |
| **Building Friends at Work** | Richard Hawes and the Arc of Mass. | Free download: <http://thearcofmass.org/toolkit/> |
| **Friends & Inclusion: Five Approaches to Building Relationships** | Peggy Hutchison & John Lord with Karen Lord | A family describes their personal search and five approaches to building a good life with belonging |
| **Friends: Connecting People with Disabilities and Community Members** | Angela Novak Amato | Free download of book and worksheets: <http://rtc.umn.edu/friends/> |
| **Making a Contribution and “I” is for ISP** | Self Advocates and DDS | Good person centered planning tools. Download at: <http://ddslearning.com/isp/> |
| **Making Friends in School** | Dr. Zachary Rossetti and the Arc of Mass. | Free download: <http://thearcofmass.org/toolkit/> |
| **Members of Each Other** | John O’Brien & Connie Lyle O’Brien | Building community in company with people with developmental disabilities |
| **Pathfinders** | John O’Brien and Beth Mount | People with developmental disabilities and their allies building communities that work for everybody. |
| **The Macro Change Handbook** | Al Condeluci | Focuses on using social capital to change our communities |
| **The Good Life** | Hugh Mackay | Examines what makes a life worth living |
| **Waddie Welcome & the Beloved Community** | Tom Kohler & Susan Earl | A personal story about the power of citizen advocates and intentional friendships |
| **Why Not Lead?** | Deborah Reidy | A primer for families of people with disabilities and their families. |