



# THE BUDDY PROGRAM

A partnership program with Deaf Youth Today (DYT) and Services for Family & Community Development (SFCD)



## What is the Buddy Program?

Deaf children often get excited about having an older deaf role model involved in their home environment.

Deaf Youth Today (DYT) would like to offer your family a Buddy who will do home visits with your deaf child (in a safe supervised environment). The Buddy (ages 16 to 25) will have recently completed the DYT leadership training program and is ready to begin working. This is a valuable experience that will benefit all involved. (Please note: parents are expected to be at home during the Buddy visits).

Who is eligible for Buddy Visits? Kindergarten to Grade 7 deaf children, as well as high school deaf students with special needs. We also welcome hearing children who have a Deaf parent.

How long are the visits? We will schedule 2 hour visits, for a 6 week time period. After that time, you may reapply. This gives other families the opportunity to benefit from the program.

What happens during a Buddy Visit? The Buddy will arrive ready with games, activities or crafts to suit your child's/family's interests. When an intake is completed, you can inform us of your preferences for activities (Sports, Storytelling, Signing Games, Baking etc.). This will help the Buddy prepare prior to the visit.

Is this only available in the Lower Mainland? Currently the majority of Buddies are available in the Lower Mainland, but we have a limited number of Buddies available in outlying areas.

**Training and Employment Opportunities for Deaf Youth?** Contact the Buddy Program at: [buddies@fndc.ca](mailto:buddies@fndc.ca) to find out about our leadership training program. All deaf youth may request training, but only those selected may work as DYT Buddies.

### How do I make the request for a Buddy to visit my home?

Please contact Jenn Wilson, Buddy Coordinator at FNDC: 604 290-2722 cell/text, or by email: [buddies@fndc.ca](mailto:buddies@fndc.ca) We also have an online Buddy request form at: [www.fndc.ca](http://www.fndc.ca)

You may also contact: Services for Family & Community Development – Kristen Pranzl at: [Kristen.Pranzl@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristen.Pranzl@gov.bc.ca) or call 604-660-5509 TTY.twork for Deaf Children (FNDC) Program  
Deaf Youth Today (DYT) is a Family Network for Deaf Children (FNDC) Program  
What is the Buddy Program? Services for Family & Community Development (SFCD)A partnership program with Deaf Youth Today (DYT) and THE BUDDY PROGRAM



Deaf Youth Today (DYT) is a Family Network for Deaf Children (FNDC) Program