

Tips on Promoting Peer Interactions

- Look for students who seem interested in focal students.
- Teach all students different types of greetings and responses:
 - “Hello, how are you?”
 - High fives or fist bumps.
 - Use topics : the weekend, last night, what did you eat last night?
- Teach peers to listen, wait, and watch how the focal student communicates.
- Strike up a conversation with peers and encourage interactions by modeling and giving suggestions.
- Look for students with similar interests.
 - Recess activity, sports, subjects in school, food, etc.
- Routinely check in with peers and staff to see if they have questions about how to communicate with the peer.
- At Elementary Level:
 - Have general education peers lead snack time.
 - have general education peers lead circle time, etc.
- Lunch is a great time for communication! But remember, the cafeteria can be overwhelming for some students.
- [Resonance Board](#): have peers introduce items and spend time with students while they are on the resonance board.
- [Experience Books](#): peers read or help create experience books with students.
- Model appropriate behavior.
- COMMUNICATION IS KEY:
 - create opportunities for peers to have conversations with focal students.
 - model using symbols, devices, ASL, any AAC supports, etc.
 - Teach conversational phrases (comments, observations, etc.) rather than asking questions.