



How to run

The Board Game Buddies Recess Program

A Simple Instruction Manual



Made possible by a
grant from the Lyle S.
Hallman Foundation

It's your turn!



BEFORE STARTING...

Your school needs to have:

- A location (e.g., gymnasium, library, etc.) to host this program.
- Teachers who are available to run the program.
- A weekly recess timeslot allocated to this program.



OPTIONAL SESSION FOR BIG BUDDIES:

Prior to the start of the program, a Board Games Buddies session can be held for exclusively the older buddies. This would allow older students to familiarize themselves with the board games and better explain them to their younger peers.

TIPS FOR STAYING ORGANIZED:

- A message during morning announcements can remind students of the program and ensure participation.
- Schools can also choose to assign specific classes (or grades) to particular weeks to help with organization.



HOW TO RUN THE PROGRAM:

The set up: Five minutes before the bell, teachers will set up the board games. Depending on the location they can be either placed on the floor and/or on tables. They should be placed about 2-3 meters apart to provide space for children to sit and play.

The start: At the start of recess, students can enter the chosen location and sit down in a designated spot (e.g., against a particular wall, on a line of the gym floor, on a mat in the library).

First, the older students will be invited to choose a game to go sit at. If there are enough older "buddies", allow them to pair up with another older child. Once they are seated, the younger children can go join an older buddy at a game. At times, the younger children can play a game without an older buddy if there are not enough older children, especially the simpler games.

Most children will only have time to play the game once. However, if children finish the game, they can easily replay the same game or choose a new one depending on the time. This is up to the discretion of the teacher in charge.

Clearing up: At clean up time (e.g., first bell), children will carefully place all the parts of the game back in their respective bags/boxes and return the games to their drawers. An older buddy or teacher can place them in the drawers. Games will have colour coded stickers that will correspond to particular drawers to facilitate clearing up. Children will then line up to leave and be dismissed by the teachers.



MAINTAINING THIS PROGRAM

Most games were purchased at J & J Cards & Collectibles (Waterloo) with a few other purchased at Toy Soup (St. Jacob's). If you need to replace a game or simply want to increase your collection, this store carries the games that we provided.

Copies of this pamphlet, the Quick Start Instructions, and contents lists are all freely available on the Children's Communication Lab website (<https://uwaterloo.ca/childrens-communication-lab/community-outreach/board-game-buddies>) if you need to re-print them.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions about the program please contact Dr. Daniela O'Neill : doneill@uwaterloo.ca



The library at Wesmount Public School set up with board games.