



BEING A BUDDY

A buddy is a volunteer paired up with an “MLP All-Star” player to help guide them through the game. Each All-Star has unique medical limitations that prevent them from playing in an ordinary little league, so this is their chance to shine.

Your goal is to focus on their strengths and help them feel like a real baseball pro!

2 Before Gametime

Now that you have information on your All-Star, it's time to create conversation and get them excited about the game. Some players like to go play catch on the field while some like to hang out in the dugout until start time.

Some players speak with no difficulty while some are considered nonverbal. Regardless of their abilities, they hear everything you say and will mirror the energy around them.

It is important to have a positive and excited attitude while you are with your All-Star. Even if they do not respond, keep talking. They will appreciate the attention and socialization.

4 Let's Play Ball!

If you are in the 1st base dugout, you are the away team. If you are in the 3rd base dugout, you are the home team. The away team always hits first. There are no strikes, balls, or outs. It is all about having fun!

Find out from your All-Star's Coach what position they are playing in on the field and what the batting order is. Whenever possible, cheer on your player and give them recognition for their efforts!

In total, you will play 2 innings of baseball. Each player hits and fields twice. If there is not much action in the field, bring a ball with you to play catch with your player to keep them engaged.

1 Get to know your MLP All-Star

Once you are checked in with staff, you will be sent to a team's dugout. The coaches of your All-Stars team will give you background on the player you are assigned. If you have any questions throughout the game, go to their Coach.

Questions to ask Coach/Parents:

- In what areas do they need assistance?
- Do they bat left-handed or right-handed?
- Do they use the batting tee or have a coach pitch to them?
- Any there any challenges or symptoms I should keep an eye out for?
- What are some of their interests? Any favorite movies/hobbies?

3 Starting Lineups

About 5 minutes before gametime, the Game Announcer will inform all players and buddies to return to their designated teams dugout for starting lineups.

Return to the dugout and listen for your player's name. Once it is announced, walk them out to the baseline in front of your dugout with the rest of their team.

Once all players are called, the National Anthem will be performed. Ensure your All-Star is facing the flag in center field. Once the song is over, return to your team's dugout.

5 End of Game

After the last batter on the home team crosses home plate, the game is finished! It is time for the players on each team to line up on their baselines one more time to slap hands and tell each other “good game.”

Once you walk your player through the line, make your way to the pitcher's mound. We will take a group picture of all players, buddies, coaches, and other volunteers from the game as a keepsake. Parents and group leaders are also welcome to come take pictures on the field after the game.

Once the picture is taken, it is time to say goodbye to your All-Star and return them to their family or Coach. Thank you for volunteering your time with us, and we hope to see you again!