

Boston University School of Education
Department of Curriculum & Teaching

Two Silber Way
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“Perspectives on Friendship”

Purpose of the Research Study

Many students with severe disabilities are now included in public schools, but families and teachers often report that they still do not have friends. In this study we will “start at the beginning” by investigating how parents/guardians and special and general educators think about and make meaning of the concept of friendship for children/students with severe disabilities receiving special education services in inclusive, public middle school settings.

Study Procedures

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to fill out a short online survey. Based on your survey responses, we may schedule one 30-minute phone interview with you that will be focused on the concept of friendship generally and as related to your child/student with severe disabilities. The interview will be audio-recorded, and the recording will be transcribed. We may ask follow-up questions related to the first interview via telephone or email, but there will only be one interview and the follow-up will be once as necessary. You may still participate if you do not wish to be audio-recorded. You will not directly benefit from participating in this research.

How to Participate; Contact Information

If you are the parent/guardian, special educator, or general educator of a middle school student with severe disabilities receiving special education services in an inclusive public school setting and you are interested in participating in this research, please feel free to contact:

- Zachary Rossetti (Principal Investigator)- (617) 353-6419; zsr@bu.edu
 - Boston University, School of Education, Two Silber Way, Boston, MA 02215
- Donna Lehr (Co-Investigator)- (617) 353-3240; dlehr@bu.edu
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