

For more information about this program, contact the OPWDD Public Education Program at (518) 473-1190, or contact a regional Public Education team:

**Albany**

(518) 654-7696

**Binghamton**

(607) 770-0386

**Bronx**

(212) 229-3174

**Brooklyn/Staten Island**

(212) 229-3175 or (718) 642-8669

**Buffalo**

(716) 517-2165

**Manhattan**

(212) 229-3173

**Queens**

(718) 217-4683

**Rochester**

(607) 776-9800

**Rome**

(315) 339-0110, Ext. 251

**Syracuse**

(315) 473-5059

**Thiells**

(845) 947-6216

**Tupper Lake**

(315) 379-9667



# Making Friends

Raising awareness of  
developmental disabilities

For preschool and primary-grade children

**(866) 946-9733**

**[www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov)**



Capture a child's imagination, and set the stage for learning and communication; incorporate OPWDD's Making Friends program into your curriculum. Through storytelling and play, the program teaches the value of differences and shows that every

child – whether they ride in a wheelchair, or walk on two feet – can be a friend.

I encourage teachers, day-care providers, camp counselors and community members to invite the dolls of Making Friends in for some educational fun.

Courtney Burke, Commissioner



## Making Friends

Making Friends is geared toward four- to- seven-year-olds. Educators use stories, puppets, and dolls, each with a different disability, to teach children what it's like to live with a disability. Through storytelling and multi-sensory activities, educators also explore what it might be like to have a developmental disability.

Making Friends helps young children look past the disability to see the wonderful qualities and abilities of the person inside.

Making Friends is available to preschools, day-care centers, kindergarten-through-second-grade classrooms, community groups, libraries and summer camps. Each presentation ranges from a half-hour to 50 minutes. The program works best in a room that comfortably seats about 30 children.

Trained educators work with the dolls or puppets, facilitate discussion and respond to audience-member questions.

To find out more about Making Friends, and other free OPWDD educational programs, or to arrange a presentation, contact OPWDD's toll-free Information Line at (866) 946-9733 voice; (866) 933-4889 TTY; visit OPWDD's Web site, [www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov); or call your local OPWDD DDSO. A listing of DDSO contact numbers, and a request form, is included on the back of this brochure.

This brochure is published by the OPWDD Communications Office, located at 44 Holland Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12229.

## Presentation Request

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School/Organization Name

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Address

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Zip

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Telephone

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Fax

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County/School District

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Name of the person completing form

If your school or organization has already seen a presentation, please note the date of the most recent presentation:

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Number of Pre-K students

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Number of Kindergarten Classes

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Number of First-Grade Classes