

PARTNER WITH OHIO STATE TO HELP FOSTER MORE INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
CRANE CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
RESEARCH AND POLICY



**Now recruiting elementary schools to evaluate a
recess-based intervention to improve social
outcomes for students with significant disabilities.**

Focus on Learning Interaction and Play (FLIP) at Recess is [Dr. Matt Brock](#)'s federally funded research study through The Ohio State University. FLIP Recess is focused on building social skills and relationships for elementary students with autism, intellectual disability, and multiple disabilities at recess. Our goal is to learn more about how students with disabilities play, interact, and build friendships with their peers to help promote a culture of meaningful inclusion.

What are we studying and why?

Many students with significant disabilities struggle to interact with their peers and make friends. We want to understand the effects of an intervention designed to improve social outcomes for elementary (K-5) students with significant disabilities.

This intervention involves (a) recruiting peers at recess to interact and provide social support to the student and (b) using video models to teach social skills.

What are the potential benefits for students?

- We anticipate that students who receive intervention will improve their social skills and expand their network of friends.
- In schools that do not receive the intervention, special education teachers will be trained to implement the intervention after the study is complete. In the immediate term, teachers will be able to use the information we collect about children's social skills and interactions for instructional planning and communication with parents.



Who will participate?

Parents/caregivers provide permission for their child to participate. Participants will include students with disabilities including autism, multiple disabilities, and intellectual disabilities.

- To qualify, students must be eligible for Ohio's Alternate Assessment for Students with Severe Cognitive Disabilities **OR** score a 74 or lower on the Adaptive Behavior Assessment System (ABAS).

How does the research project work?

After we receive permission to work in an elementary school, we randomly assign that school to one of two conditions: an intervention group or a waitlist group. Participation would last for at least two semesters (one semester of primary data collection and one semester of follow-up data collection).

- **Intervention Group**
 - Our research team will train staff who supervise recess (typically paraprofessionals) to recruit and coach peers to provide support to students with significant disabilities as they interact and play.
 - We will also train the school's special education teachers and paraprofessionals to teach students new social skills using video models, which would be implemented in the classroom for 10 minutes, 3-5 times per week.
- **Waitlist Group**
 - Schools assigned to the waitlist group will not receive any intervention during the study, but we will train special education teachers to implement the intervention after the study is complete.

What data is collected?

- We observe students during recess three times between the beginning and end of the semester that they participate, then three times again in the following semester.
- We administer a 1-hour assessment to students at the beginning and end of the semester they participate, and then again in the following semester.
- We administer a 5- to 10-minute survey with all students in the recess.
- Teachers and parents/caregivers are asked to complete surveys about student social skills at the beginning and end of the semester, as well as during the follow-up semester.
 - The teacher and parent/caregiver will each receive a \$15 gift card for every round of surveys they complete.
- We will share data on social outcomes with special education teachers who can use this information to plan instruction and share progress with families.

Is your school interested in participating?

We aim to partner with at least six schools each semester. We have spots remaining for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

Who should I contact if interested or for questions?

Contact Hannah Rogers at rogers.165@osu.edu or 614-688-0761.
