Compass Buddies

Name _______________________
Date  _______________________

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North Buddy
Southwest Buddy

Northeast Buddy
Northwest Buddy

South Buddy
West Buddy

Southeast Buddy
East Buddy

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Teacher Directions

Overview: This is a fun way to create ready-made sets of partners for cooperative learning lessons.

Steps:

1. Decide which one of the Compass Buddies printables you plan to use, and duplicate one copy for each student. The compass rose with the four cardinal directions is easier to use, and I suggest using it the first time you do the activity. (Note: If you duplicate the form on colored paper, it's easier for kids to find it later.)

2. To begin, distribute one copy to each student and ask them to write their own names and the date at the top of the page.

3. Next, ask students to stand up with their papers and a pencil and begin moving quietly around the room.

4. Give an audible signal (clap, chimes, buzzer, bell, etc.) and have students stop and find a partner.

5. When everyone has a partner, ask them to sign their partner’s paper on the North Buddy line. It’s very important that they all start on the same line or the follow-up activity will not work.

6. Give the signal to move and have students mix around the room. Signal them to stop and find a new partner. This time you’ll need to check to be sure everyone does have a new partner before you proceed with the next step. You may have to switch a few students to create new pairs.

7. Now ask students to sign each other’s papers on the East Buddy line.

8. To complete the activity, have students mix around and pair up two more times. They’ll sign next on the South Buddy line and finally on the West Buddy line. If you have a small class, it may take some help on your part to make sure everyone has a new partner for each time slot. If you are using the printable that has all eight directions, it will be nearly impossible for students to have brand new partners each time, so just tell them that no name can appear more than twice.

9. After they finish, students return to their seats and put their papers in a safe place such as in the front of their binders. You might consider collecting the papers and storing them for future use.

10. Now each time you need for them to form partners, have them take out their Compass Buddies form and name one of the four directions. For example, “Today you will meet with your West Buddy to complete your graphic organizer.”

Note: Each time you use the Compass Buddies form, remind students to put their clocks away in a safe place. After half a dozen kids have lost their forms, this method of pairing becomes ineffective!

Thanks to Monica Horn for suggesting the Compass Buddies variation of the well-known Clock Buddies activity!