

The iEARN Buddy Support Contract

This contract is an effort to help myself and my classmates work in a productive, respectful manner that will result in a positive connection between ourselves, our school, our school district, and our iEARN world.

The following are items that I have agreed to:

1. I have read and understood the Internet User Agreement of my school district (if one exists).
2. I agree that the plan of this contract is to match pairs of buddies in class. These buddy pairs will help each other stay in the bounds of respect conducive to positive online work.
3. I agree that I have a responsibility to help my classmate STOP when I sense that the language/tone/topic of a message is becoming inappropriate or disrespectful while on the internet/forums.
4. I will do this by verbally saying that I am uncomfortable with what is happening.
5. I will ask my classmate to change the discussion format to a respectful, appropriate message.
6. Inappropriate messages include the use of disrespectful, hurtful terms, profanity, slurs, and inappropriate topics including pro-substance abuse, stereotypes (racial, sexual, ethnic, religious), and pro-violence issues.
7. I will also be aware of the use of the iEARN forums by students as young as five years old. Therefore, messages will be sensitive to both the younger and the older student. Messages will also be sensitive to those with physical, emotional, or learning handicaps. Messages will also be sensitive to the many different types of families.
8. If I am the one typing, and my buddy tells me that he/she is uncomfortable with what I am typing, I will stop.
9. Even if my classmate is a good friend, I will honor our joint commitment to this contract.
10. If the message continues, and my buddy and I do not stop, we both know that the possible result may be de-activation of my iEARN User Name and Password.

_____ (my name)

_____ (my buddy's name)

Dated on _____

[This is an optional contract available for use by iEARN teachers and students. It was developed by the first iEARN Learning Circle class at the Edmonds Cyberschool in the USA who write: "We felt that the use of this contract would help us all stay respectfully in the bounds of internet use/discussion forums of the iEARN network. We also acknowledge the importance of supporting each other in our endeavors."]