

## Setting up a student buddy system

1. Match the students
2. If you are going to evaluate the process plan how you are going to do this. Consider a pre and post questionnaire for the student to complete.
3. Explain that the student buddy system does not replace the CE role and is not part of the assessment process for the placement. It is established to share clinical experiences, observations and increase support.
4. Set and agree upon ground rules
  - mutual respect
  - patient confidentiality
  - how often the pair will make contact (e.g. needs basis, once a week, initial –midway – end of placement)
  - options for how to contact – internet, web conference, telephone, social media (consider specific guidelines for social media from your professional body)
5. Agree on the role of the Clinical Educator in the relationship. If the buddy system is not working should the student contact the Clinical Educator?
6. At the end of placement evaluate if the student buddy system worked in your clinical setting. What changes could be made to improve the buddy system?