

- **Meredith Moore Redfern**

Pen for Pals

My name is Meredith;

I am the proud mother of a son with autism. Currently, I homeschool my son, and this is what lead me to create "Pen for Pals". While preparing for a unit on letter writing it suddenly stuck me how beneficial it would be for Will to have a friend that he could write to. Will communicates better with written words than with speech. Plus, he sometimes has anxiety around other kids, especially initially. I was at once thrilled at the thought of him having the safety of his writing to make friends. It is my hope that this will lead to more social confidence and communication skills for all of our precious children. Even if your child draws pictures, I think that this would be very rewarding for him/her. There are so many ways to communicate and art is certainly one of them.

This is VERY new, so please bear with me while I figure out the ins and outs on getting this going. My plan is this:

- 1) Find interested families
- 2) Have child send in a first letter or drawing to their new Pen Pal, (basic intro letter), along with anything you request. (i.e.: girl, boy, different state, etc.) I will do my best to meet these.
- 3) A self -addressed stamp envelope will also need to be included.
- 4) I also request a signed letter from a guardian stating that they will review letters before they go out, and monitor those that come in.
- 5) I will collect and read these initial letters/drawings. Then try to match them to another child with similar writing talents.
- 6) Once the match is made, I will get your Pen Pal's letter out to you!
- 7) You can have as many Pen Pals as you would like.
- 8) After the initial letter the families will then take over sending letters back and forth.

At this point, I am only taking Pen Pal requests from those that have a confirmed affiliation with me or someone I know. This is to ensure the safety of our kids.

Thanks so much for your interest. I am looking forward to watching my son grow with this experience!

Meredith Moore
Pen for Pals
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