



Date

Address

RE: Patient Name:
Identification Number:
Reference Number:

Dear Medical Review Board,

I would like to submit information supporting the classification of The Buddy Bike as durable medical equipment intended for therapeutic activity.

Buddy Bike, LLC is the manufacturer and distributor of The Buddy Bike, an alternative inline tandem bicycle (bicycle for two). Its features make it beneficial for riders with cognitive disabilities and other special needs. The Buddy Bike places the smaller rider in the front seat while the rear rider controls the steering. It is shorter in length than a standard tandem, has a unique handlebar setup and has a lower front seat so both riders can safely enjoy the view. The Buddy Bike is CPSC safety-rated to support up to 380 pounds and may be appropriate for riders of most ages and abilities. For smaller riders who can't reach the pedals, we offer optional fold-out foot pegs to rest their feet out of the way of the pedal path. Please note that riders must be able to sit upright and balance on a standard bicycle seat to ride the Buddy Bike.

The Buddy Bike has been officially tested, rated and recognized as a product that is friendly for children of all abilities by the National Lekotek Center. The following is a summary of their report which can be found at our product listing at www.ableplay.org.

The Buddy Bike can be empowering for riders with special needs. Riding the same bike as the caregiver or teacher lessens the skills and the number of steps necessary to successfully ride a bike. The front rider has their own handlebars to feel like they are steering without actually having control of the bike and they can contribute to pedaling and propelling the bicycle forward. The rider seated in the front has an unobstructed view for maximum visual stimulation and tactile stimulation in the form of wind on his/her face. The seats are close enough for easy communication between the riders making it easier to keep the person with a disability on task without lagging behind, turning a different way or stopping on their own. A rider with a disability is able to keep up with family and friends when riding in a group so they are no longer left behind.

Per the National Lekotek Center, the therapeutic benefits of the Buddy Bike include:

- Provides physical activity which directly combats obesity.
- Strengthens core muscles for stability.
- Improves balance and exercises reciprocal leg movements.
- Improves motor planning and gross motor skills.
- Provides visual and tactile stimulation.
- May improve full body sensory awareness.
- Helps improve attention and assists children in focusing on cognitive tasks presented after by providing riders with proprioceptive input.
- Encourages teamwork and verbal communication.
- Provides family activity and an opportunity for practicing community social skills.

w w w • b u d d y b i k e • c o m

Buddy Bike, LLC • 2775 Sunny Isles Boulevard, Suite 118 • North Miami Beach, FL 33160 • T 786.489.BIKE (2453) • F 305.932.6585



In addition to this report, we have many therapist and customer testimonials listed in our web site which support the research of the National Lekotek Center. You will find some of those comments enclosed in this proposal including stories of how the Buddy Bike has been used in therapeutic and educational programs.

I hope you will re-consider the request by this family. In covering an adaptive bicycle like the Buddy Bike, you may eliminate or reduce medical expenses such as medication, other more costly therapies and treatments related to weight gain and lack of physical activity.

Sincerely,

Shelley L. Patterson
shelley@buddybike.com
786.489.BIKE (2453)

Product Description

What is the Buddy Bike?

The Buddy Bike[®] is the alternative tandem bicycle that places the stoker in front. It is shorter in length than a standard tandem and has an innovative and patented handlebar setup that allows the rear rider to control the steering. The pedals work together on the same drivechain offering physical activity for both riders. The Buddy Bike is CPSC safety-rated to support a weight capacity of 380 pounds and a lower front seat so both riders can safely enjoy the view. The innovative features of the Buddy Bike offer therapeutic activity to riders with cognitive or minor physical disabilities who may not have the strength to pedal a bike alone or who may not be able to ride a bicycle safely on their own.

SEARCH YOUR SMARTPHONE
FOR A QR CODE READER APP



VIEW THE BUDDY BIKE VIDEO

Buddy Bike Features

- Stoker rides in front while captain steers from rear.
- Unique handlebars give stoker a sense of control.
- Lower front seat allows both riders to safely enjoy the view.
- Pedals work together on same drivechain.
- Requires less cycling skills for the stoker making the Buddy Bike an excellent tool for training beginners.
- CPSC safety-rated to support a bike weight capacity of 380 pounds.
- Fold-out foot pegs for smaller riders (sold separately).
- EZ Sunray bike seat with back rest will offer support (sold separately).

How is the Buddy Bike different from a regular tandem or tag-along?

The innovative features of the Buddy Bike provide the alternative to tandem cycling, tag-alongs, trikes and infant seats. A typical tandem bike places the “captain” in the front seat; the captain steers the bike and controls the brakes while the “stoker” rides in back. The Buddy Bike reverses those positions putting the stoker safely in the front seat. By placing the child in front, it creates a more interactive bike riding experience. Adult riders (such as teachers, physical therapists and coaches), can speak into the ear of the patient, rather than shouting at them in the wind, and the patient has an open view of the world around them, receiving sensory input, rather than riding with a view of the back of adult.

Are the pedals on the same drivechain?

Yes. There are two bike chains connected to the same drivechain. The pedals work together. The front riders cranks are slightly smaller than the rear set. The benefit is that the therapist or parent will move the pedals of the front rider and with the patient’s feet on the pedals, they will receive physical motion and activity which directly combats obesity, increases blood flow and may help to improve leg movement and flexibility. If the front rider can’t keep their feet on the pedals, a local bike shop may be able to provide toe clips, cages or velcro exerciser pedals.

Buddy Bike Family BB102-AL-8

Buddy Bike Family BB102-AL-8 has an aluminum metallic burgundy frame and an 8 speed Shimano Nexus internal hub for pedal-free shifting and easy bike maintenance. Captains under 5'8" may find more comfort and control on the smaller frame size which includes a rear rider seat 1" lower than Buddy Bike Sport, lower top tubes for easier bike mounting and shorter distance to the handlebars.

For other available bike models please visit www.buddybike.com.

8 SPEED ALUMINUM *f a m i l y*

- Geared toward novice riders & captains under 5'8"
- Metallic burgundy aluminum frame
- Bike weight capacity 380 pounds for riders of all ages
- Stoker rides in front while Captain steers from rear
- Lower front seat allows both riders to safely enjoy the view
- Unique handlebars give stoker a sense of control
- Pedals work together on same drivechain



Shimano Nexus Inter 8
 8 speed internal hub for easy
 maintenance and pedal-free shifting

Rear rider seat 1" lower than Buddy Bike Sport
 for comfort and control

Top tubes lowered
 for mounting ease

Fold-out foot pegs
 for smaller riders
 (sold separately)

Tektro brakes
 2 captain rear wheel V brakes plus
 1 stoker rear wheel standard caliper brake
 for strong braking power and safety

Shimano sealed unit bottom brackets for both riders

Kenda K-892-007 26 x 1.95 tires for gripping, stability
 and riding on a variety of surfaces

Dual leg kickstand for stability

Therapeutic Benefits

How can the Buddy Bike benefit special needs patients?

The Buddy Bike offers therapeutic activity with the added benefit of providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and social interaction. Special needs patients may benefit from some of these features: safe and interactive cycling; open view providing sensory input; proximity of riders allows easy conversation and ability to practice verbal skills and development; an opportunity for growth, development and social interaction; and patients who can reach the pedals will receive exercise which directly combats obesity.

Who may benefit from riding the Buddy Bike?

Patients who may benefit from riding the Buddy Bike may include but are not limited to patients who are sight or hearing impaired, who have minor physical disabilities or low muscle tone and patients with cognitive disabilities such as Autism, Down Syndrome, Aspergers and Fragile X. Recent studies show that riding a bicycle can reduce tremors in patients with Parkinson's Disease. Patients with severe physical disabilities may not be able to ride the Buddy Bike. Riders must have enough trunk strength to sit upright on a standard bicycle seat. The Buddy Bike is CPSC safety-rated to support a weight capacity up to 380 pounds accommodating adults and teens as well as smaller riders. Adults who have never ridden a bicycle can also learn to ride on a Buddy Bike. There aren't any height restrictions but it is necessary that the rear rider is able to see over the front rider's head in order to safely steer the bicycle. There aren't any specific age ranges either. If patients can sit upright on a standard bicycle seat, they can ride the Buddy Bike. Front seat riders must have an inseam of 25" to be able to pedal. For smaller riders who can't reach the pedals, fold-out foot pegs provide a place to rest their feet out of the way of the pedal motion path. Foot pegs are sold separately.

What are the therapeutic benefits?

The Buddy Bike can be empowering for a patient with special needs. Riding the same bike as the instructor lessens the skills and number of steps necessary to successfully ride a bike. The patient has their own handlebars to feel like they are steering without actually having control of the bike and the pedals work on the same drivetrain allowing the patient to contribute to pedaling and propelling the bicycle forward.

On the Buddy Bike the patient rides on a lower front seat, rather than in the back as on a traditional tandem, which provides an unobstructed view for maximum visual stimulation and tactile stimulation in the form of wind on his/her face. The seats on the Buddy Bike are close enough for easy communication between the riders making it easier to keep the person with a disability on task without lagging behind, turning a different way or stopping on their own.

Some customers state that their children are more alert and responsive after riding the Buddy Bike and that they feel that they fit in by being able to do what other kids do. A rider with a disability is able to keep up with family and friends on group rides so they are no longer left behind.

The Buddy Bike has been officially tested, rated and recognized as a product that is friendly for children of all abilities by the National Lekotek Center, the leading authority on play for children with disabilities. Visit our product listing at AblePlay (www.ableplay.org) to review the report by the National Lekotek Center about the Buddy Bike and its applications and benefits for special needs children.

Per the National Lekotek Center, the therapeutic benefits of the Buddy Bike may include the items listed below.

Therapeutic Benefits

- Riding the Buddy Bike can be empowering for a patient with special needs. The patient can contribute to steering, pedaling and have a sense of control while riding in front.
- Because the patient is riding the same bike as the caregiver, it lessens the skills and the number of steps necessary to successfully ride a bike. It also keeps the patient on task; he is not able to lag behind, turn a different way or stop on his own.
- Provides an unobstructed view for both riders providing visual stimulation and tactile stimulation in the form of wind on their faces.
- Full body sensory awareness can take place as patients feel the movement of their own bodies and joints, feel their bodies in space, feel the rubber of the grips and the wind in their face.
- Helps improve attention and assists children in focusing on cognitive tasks presented after by providing riders with proprioceptive input.
- Verbal communication is encouraged to coordinate pedaling, coasting, turning, braking and stopping and easier since the riders are closer together.
- Provides physical activity which directly combats obesity.
- Strengthens core muscles for stability.
- Improves balance and exercises reciprocal leg movements.
- Improves motor planning and gross motor skills.
- Provides family activity and an opportunity for practicing community social skills.

Testimonials

“Riding the Buddy Bike can be empowering for a child/adult with special needs.”

- Independent evaluation
by the National Lekotek Center

“...The children absolutely loved riding [the Buddy Bike]. We were able to use the bikes as motivators for completing work - the children were able to earn bike rides if they followed the rules and completed assignments. In addition, some of the children seek sensory input that riding the bike was able to provide, and bike rides at regular intervals helped keep instances of inappropriate sensory seeking behaviors down. Another very cool fact - we actually allowed STEPS Interns to ride the bikes with the children as part of their responsibilities and bonding experiences with the children. STEPS Interns are high school students with disabilities who...want to be camp counselors or work with children when they enter the workforce. Thanks again!!!”

Stacy A. Layer, MA, BCBA
Behavior Analysis Manager
Miami Children’s Hospital/Dan Marino Center
Weston, FL

“Aside from the physical benefits they receive...it has given them a sense of belonging and has driven them to “want to attend physical education and “ride with coach.” The look on their faces is one that I cannot describe.”

Will Perez, Physical Education Director
The Victory Center for Autism and Behavioral Challenges
Miami, FL

“The buddy bike is an amazing thing for children on the spectrum. What we found from the families that tried it was that it was really good for sensory integration and motor skills as well as building up the weaker muscle groups and working on balance. We found the kids were showing more self confidence because they were accomplishing a task they may not otherwise be able to do, and the bike was great at not only allowing them to accomplish these tasks but reinforced the behavior because they could continue to do well. Also, it is wonderful for the kids because they get to interact with their parents and from the parents perspective they get the simple joy of riding bikes with their children. We love the buddy bike!” ”

Generation Rescue
Sherman Oaks, CA

“...[The Buddy Bike] has been amazing. My husband and Jackson have been out every weekend riding since we got it. Jackson LOVES it! He is enjoying their time together so much - he loves being on the bike, he loves being outside. It is great to have an appropriate activity to do with him that he loves. Best of all, my husband has something special that he can do with his son...he LOVES being on the bike with his dad! And they are having a great time together. Thank you for such a wonderful product. It has made a difference in our lives!!”

Michele - Long Island, NY

"We are so happy and proud for [our son] and just want to thank you again for providing a wonderful product like the buddy bike that has allowed my son a chance to participate in an activity that only a year ago seemed impossible."

Tim - Naples, FL

"I have a wonderful son, Kenny who has autism...Here is what he said to me tonight while riding our Buddy Bike: 'I like riding our bike on our quiet streets when it is like this...Like when it's warm out, but if you ride the bike a little bit fast it makes the wind go by and be cool out too - right on your face.' I knew exactly what he meant. It is what I have always loved about riding a bike. I love that the Buddy Bike is giving us these opportunities to be together, work together, play together, talk together and...that part about riding a little bit fast so that the wind goes by and makes it cool out - right on your face...it's the greatest...The Buddy Bike is doing so much more for us than just getting us around town on a bike."

Maureen - Monroe, MI

"My husband & son are out and about on the bike every weekend. We always get comments...stares...and questions! We are all too happy to share the Buddy Bike story. Our son, Nicholas, wants to ride all the time. The first time he rode he had his legs out to the side...threw his head back...closed his eyes...took a deep breath and smiled the biggest smile I've EVER seen...it made me cry. I think maybe it was the first time he'd ever felt the wind in his face. That image will never leave my mind (or heart)...My husband travels weekly, so their time on the bike has been limited - but priceless...We are beyond thrilled to own a buddy bike!"

Lori - Fernandina Beach, FL