



On September 14, 2025, **The Wildflower Alliance (TWA)** hosted the Buddy Bounce Inclusive Playdate at Urban Air Trussville. This event transformed an ordinary play space into a place where children of all abilities could connect, families could exhale, and volunteers could step into the work of inclusion with confidence.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Families of children with disabilities often find community spaces unwelcoming, leaving children isolated and parents discouraged. Buddy Bounce showed what's possible when inclusion is intentionally designed: every child was seen, every family felt supported, and every volunteer left inspired to do more.

THE OUTCOMES

Children: 100% reflected a buddy connection in their drawings; 73% showed shared play; 40% expressed joy through hearts, smiles, and celebration. No child was left invisible — even those with high support needs were represented in trampoline play.

Parents: All reported that their child connected with peers “in many moments,” with most saying their child’s strengths were noticed and celebrated. Families described ripple effects — siblings felt equally valued, memories were created, and parents trusted volunteers enough to step back and enjoy the moment.

“I could step back most of the time. Having kids just like my child without having to over explain their disability. I felt comfortable with allowing my child to just be themselves.”

— A Buddy Bounce Parent

Volunteers: Every volunteer reported feeling extremely confident, more prepared to support inclusion in the future, and committed to returning.

WHAT MAKES TWA UNIQUE

The success of Buddy Bounce reflects **TWA’s ability to design and deliver experiences where inclusion doesn’t just happen — it is built into every detail.** From buddy pairings to structured activities, from volunteer preparation to family engagement, each element worked together to ensure no one was left on the margins. The results were not just felt in the moment; they were documented through reflections, surveys, and stories that demonstrate lasting impact.

THE OPPORTUNITY AHEAD

Buddy Bounce has already proven what’s possible when inclusion is intentionally designed: children connected, families exhaled, and volunteers left ready to do more. With strategic investment, TWA can now scale this proven model into new venues and neighborhoods — ensuring that:

- More children are seen, chosen, and celebrated.
- More families experience lasting belonging.
- More volunteers and community members carry inclusion forward into everyday spaces.

We invite funders and partners to help us bring this model to scale — so that everywhere families go, every child belongs.

