This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study to enhance the use of natural supports to increase the engagement of students with significant disabilities with the school community.

**General synopsis**

In this short video clip, Dr. Erik Carter discusses some of the benefits that students without disabilities gain from working with their peers with significant disabilities.

**Key understandings**

- Students with significant disabilities learn a range of social, academic and self-determination skills when they have opportunities to learn alongside their peers without disabilities.
- Students without disabilities acquire greater appreciation of diversity, and of their classmates and themselves from learning alongside their peers with significant disabilities.

**Questions for discussion**

- What statements in this video clip caught your attention? Why?
- What are some benefits that students without disabilities in your school might gain from learning with peers with significant disabilities?
- Give some examples of how students in your school have advocated for their peers with disabilities.

**For more information**

- For resources and training materials for mentoring, see: Alberta Mentoring Partnership website: [http://www.albertamentors.ca/](http://www.albertamentors.ca/)
- For examples of activities and materials related to natural supports, see: Natural Supports Project, University of Wisconsin-Madison [http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/naturalsupports/resources.php](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/naturalsupports/resources.php)

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