

Co-Teaching Strategies & Examples

Strategy	Definition/Example
<i>One Teach, One Observe</i>	<p>One teacher has primary responsibility while the other gathers specific observational information on students or the (instructing) teacher. The key to this strategy is to focus the observation – where the teacher doing the observation is observing specific behaviors.</p> <p>Examples: One teacher can observe for: specific types of questions asked by instructing teacher; teacher movement; charting student participation; specific on-task behaviors; specific group interactions.</p> <p>Tip: When observing collect data/evidence. Observation is not intended to make judgments, but to provide data on what is happening in the classroom and allow that information to impact future lessons.</p>
<i>One Teach, One Assist</i>	<p>An extension of One Teach, One Observe - one teacher has primary instructional responsibility while the other assists students with their work, monitors behaviors, or corrects assignments.</p> <p>Examples: While one teacher has the instructional lead, the teacher assisting may ask clarifying questions, provide additional examples or be the “voice” for the students who don’t understand or are hesitant to share. As teacher candidates lead their first whole group lesson, the CT can be responsible for overseeing classroom management – allowing the TC to focus on pacing, questioning strategies, assessment, movement, etc.</p> <p>Tip: This strategy supports classroom management as students get their questions answered faster and behavior problems are addressed without stopping instruction. Pairs often identify a signal (standing under the clock) that allows for a quick conversation or opportunity to discuss something without the CT interrupting the lesson.</p>
<i>Station Teaching</i>	<p>The co-teaching pair divides the instructional content into parts – each teacher instructs one of the groups, groups then rotate or spend a designated amount of time at each station – often an independent station will be used along with the teacher led stations.</p> <p>Examples: If co-teaching pairs were doing a literacy lesson they could divide into 3 stations: one working on fluency, one on reading comprehension and one on vocabulary. A science lesson may have students at one station viewing a specimen/sample under the microscope (magnifying glass), another station has students diagramming the specimen/sample, and a third station has students watching a short video of the specimen/sample moving in its natural setting.</p> <p>Tips: Stations cannot be hierarchical students must be able to start at any station. This is an excellent way to have student working in smaller groups; allow the TC the opportunity to build their confidence while teaching a mini-lesson multiple times; and keep the cooperating teacher actively engaged with students. Other adults (Paraprofessionals, Special Educators, Title I teachers) can also lead stations. Pacing, voice and noise levels must all be discussed prior to the lesson.</p>
<i>Parallel Teaching</i>	<p>Each teacher instructs half the students. The two teachers are addressing the same instructional material and presenting the material using the same teaching strategy. The greatest benefit to this approach is the reduction of student to teacher ratio.</p> <p>Examples: After reading a selection from their text, the class is divided into two heterogeneous groups where they discuss a list of questions from the reading. For an elementary math lesson students are divided into two smaller groups where each teacher is able to support the use of manipulatives for solving problems.</p> <p>Tips: Place students facing their teacher with backs to the other teacher/group to reduce distractions. When teacher candidates view the CT timing and pacing can be supported as they learn. Pacing, voice and noise levels must all be discussed prior to the lesson.</p>

Supplemental Teaching	<p><i>This strategy allows one teacher to work with students at their expected grade level, while the other teacher works with those students who need the information and/or materials retaught, extended or remediated.</i></p> <p><u>Examples:</u> Using the results from an math exam students are divided into two groups, one smaller group that didn't meet the expected score/requirement will work with one teacher who will reteach the concept(s) and provide support materials to help students understand and successfully complete the math problems. The other teacher will work with those students who successfully completed the exam; however these students will build on the same concepts and complete additional math problems.</p> <p><u>Tips:</u> Groupings are based on need identified from a specific exam or assessment. Both teachers should work with all students throughout the experience, making sure that one teacher (TC or CT) doesn't always work with the students who are struggling and/or need extensions. Group make-up is always changing.</p>
Alternative or Differentiated	<p><i>Alternative teaching strategies provide two different approaches to teaching the same information. The learning outcome is the same for all students however the avenue for getting there is different.</i></p> <p><u>Examples:</u> When doing a lesson on predicting students will take clues from what they have read so far to predict what will happen next. One teacher may lead a group of students through a brainstorming activity where they identify the significant events that have occurred so far in the story – putting each event on a white board. Based on those significant events the group together brainstorms what will happen next in the story. The other teacher accomplishes the same outcome but with his/her group, the students predict by connecting the specific items pulled out of the bag with the story (Shiloh – dirty dog collar, \$20 bill, moldy cheese, etc.).</p> <p><u>Tips:</u> A great way to incorporate learning styles into lessons; both instructors need to be clear on the outcome(s) of the lesson, as student should achieve the same objective but arriving there using different methods.</p>
Team Teaching	<p><i>Well planned, team taught lessons, exhibit an invisible flow of instruction with no prescribed division of authority. Using a team teaching strategy, both teachers are actively involved in the lesson. From a students' perspective, there is no clearly defined leader – as both teachers share the instruction, are free to interject information, and available to assist students and answer questions.</i></p> <p><u>Examples:</u> Both instructors can share the reading of a story or text so that the students are hearing two voices. The cooperating teacher may begin a lesson discussing specific events; the TC may then share a map or picture showing specifics of the event.</p> <p><u>Tips:</u> Often pairs will begin the experience by team teaching a lesson, providing “fact time” in front of the classroom for the teacher candidate – this is much more scripted and staged, but does provide an opportunity for the students to view the teacher candidate as a “real” teacher. Team teaching takes intense planning, but the longer pairs work together the less time it takes as they know what each other is going to contribute.</p>

Adapted from the work of Lynne Cook and Marilyn Friend (1995).

***The co-teaching strategies are not hierarchical
they can be used in any order and/or combined to best meet the needs of the students in
the classroom.***