

PEER TUTORING IN REMEDIAL READING

by:

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Reading is an essential skill that is used for communication and learning. Students must read comprehensively to decode information properly. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are communication skills that learners must formally practice in a classroom. It is indispensable for human beings to learn these skills. It is a must for an individual to learn these skills to participate and live a life with ease. Among the four communication skills, reading is primarily the first to be discovered and needs to be mastered by students for them to know. It is a highly valued skill in today's technology-driven world.

Reading is the gateway to endless learning. Students will surely benefit from reading a wide selection of learning materials. On the other hand, reading interest is vital in enhancing students' success in school and out of it. Hence, students must have high reading interests. It is the key to unlocking difficulties in text decoding. Despite different methods used by language teachers, some students still need help in reading comprehension and self-motivation in reading.

Peer tutoring is one of the many interventions that teachers can use to help learners with reading difficulties. According to Colvin, peer tutoring in higher education is increasingly used to aid in student learning, motivation, and empowerment. A finding in a research study conducted by Kalkowski declares that peer tutoring also has a good impact on the tutors themselves and more significant effects on the tutees regarding academics and self-concept. He also mentioned that peer tutoring has improved academics, social behavior, discipline, peer relations, self-esteem, subject attitudes, and

school attendance. It is also a teaching strategy in which students work together in pairs or small groups to help one another learn specific academic content or skills. In this approach, one student takes on the role of the tutor, providing support and guidance to another student, the tutee. Peer tutoring can occur in various educational settings, including schools, colleges, and universities.

Grubbs & Boes revealed that teachers and students surveyed regarding the peer tutoring program believed it is effective as implemented. Although proven effective, they concluded that more training for the tutors is needed to make the program more effective.

Giving one-on-one or small group discussions in middle school for students with problems with basic reading skills can be challenging for a teacher. Time is limited for teachers to cover the curriculum and manage student behaviors, and time for providing remedial instruction is also minimal. As students with hardships in reading go through their academic years, they find it more difficult to absorb information from materials beyond their ability. Thus, all students must be eligible for instruction to help them read effectively. A reliable tutor must do such instruction. With the help of a competent tutor, teacher dominance might be lessened, and low-performing students in reading could have more ease in learning and developing their reading comprehension. This can materialize with the participation of teachers and selected excellent readers within a school community.

To implement effective peer tutoring, it is essential to provide training for tutors, establish clear expectations, and monitor the progress of both tutors and tutees. Additionally, educators can play a role in facilitating peer tutoring by providing resources, setting goals, and evaluating the program's overall effectiveness.

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