

LEARNING WITH FRIENDS (PEER TEACHING)

by:

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In a typical classroom setting where the teacher-to-pupil ratio is 1:35, there is an effective approach to learning. What is it? It's peer teaching.

In a heterogeneous class, the academic performance and intellectual capacity really vary. Of course, there will be pupils who will learn the lessons faster than the others. There will also be pupils who will learn more slowly than the others. In this case, peer teaching can greatly help.

Peer teaching is a method wherein learners who master the lesson ahead of others can help and teach their classmates. They can share the techniques that are used to learn the lesson well. Studies have found that peer teaching is proven to be greatly effective, especially for pupils who are quite slow in mastering the skills.

Unlike in the traditional teacher-led instruction wherein the teacher is the one guiding and providing instructions, peer teaching helps the students learn in a collaborative way. It also eases the tension and pressure as the students can learn in a less strict and happier way. It can be in the form of group discussion, brainstorming, or even one-on-one tutoring with classmates.

It also helps when the learner can freely ask the questions, he is afraid to raise in front of the teacher and in front of the class. He can have the courage to ask his friend about something that is confusing or something that is difficult for him to understand.

Moreover, peer teaching benefits both parties. The one who teaches or acts as a teacher continuously masters the skills and even improves as he shares his knowledge with others. While the one being coached and taught gains mastery in his time and pace.

Peer teaching also strengthens the bond among colleagues, and at the same time, builds up their collaborative skills.

References:

<https://www.tprteaching.com/peer-learning/>

<https://cognitiveresearchjournal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41235-020-00218-5>