

What strategies can I use during P2P sessions? How do I make P2P sessions fun, memorable, yet productive? These are some questions I had before my first session. However, all the overthinking is now gone, due to a few strategies that I will share with you today. During my first P2P lesson, I was very nervous about whether or not my teaching styles would help my buddy, whether or not my buddy would like me, or whether or not I would be able to be good at this job. As I kept going into these weekly zoom meetings, I became comfortable, thanks to some new things to make my lessons more efficient. For example, I first just started off with learning my buddy's capabilities as of right now. I would learn and observe the areas that my buddy wanted to pay attention to more, while being patient and positive so that my buddy can learn in the best way possible to help him/her. Making sure that I understand and know my buddy's capabilities allow me to easily create lesson plans, but also allow my buddy to learn. For example, if my buddy's math capabilities were around 3rd grade math, but I taught him 2nd grade math, he wouldn't be learning anything in the wasted time. However, if I taught him 5th grade math it would be too challenging that my buddy wouldn't be able to understand and he wouldn't like the weekly P2P lessons. So, around 3-4th grade math would be appropriate. This strategy of first observing and learning your buddy's capabilities are crucial to lesson planning. P2P is a program where buddies should feel welcome, happy, and excited to join zoom meetings to learn. Another strategy that I use in order to make my sessions more efficient and help my buddy understand material more is to make my sessions as fun as I can. Especially for younger children, boring equals uninterested, meaning that buddies won't pay as much attention. However, finding participative activities, games, and videos to watch together and overall just doing activities your buddy wants will really help you. It will get your buddy excited to come to session, participate more, and help time move faster! Kids can remember more information when it is taught in a fun way, so teaching new things to children through activities they usually do and like to do is a very good strategy to help with P2P sessions! My last strategy is to use visuals and pictures while teaching. Many students are visual learners, and this can really help. This also connects somewhat to the first strategy, but depending on how a buddy/student learns best, putting in videos, visuals, and images for buddies to see in slideshows or presentations can be very useful. It allows students to remember things easier and better. Every buddy/student/mentee is different, and it is important that helpers/tutors/mentors are able to observe and find methods that best suit buddies/students/mentees. This is a key characteristic that every teacher should obtain. With these three strategies of learning what level your student is at, making lessons/sessions as fun as possible, and using visuals to help deepen the understanding of information for students can really impact the flow of study sessions.