

What was a challenging moment during your time as a Helper? How did you overcome this challenge, and what did you learn from it?

A difficult moment during my time as a Helper during the Peer to Peerfall semester was keeping the buddy focused and actively participating throughout the two hours of class. Our classes especially had a problem with communication. Although my buddy was shy, she continues to minimally talk, and if she does talk, in a very quiet way. She takes a while to answering the question by getting distracted a bit and also she is always hesitant to speak first when needing to tell me the answer or that she is finished or that she needs help. It was challenging for me to approach her and actively encourage her to participate and not be shy. Although I am continuously trying to find a way in which she feels comfortable and fun, it is challenging for me to find that way.

I had several ways I overcame that challenge. One of the ways was giving her multiple three to five minute breaks throughout the two-hour class. This solution seemed to help her focusing a little bit. Another way was watching several educational youtube videos with her like Brain Pop and School House Rock with content related to what we were learning in class that day. Although for some videos, my buddy was not able to understand the video quite well. However, for some videos, she was able to follow along quite well and sometimes sing along to the music and solve the problems at the end. Another way was playing educational games with content related to what we were learning in class that day. example, for first-grade multiplication problems, I went to ABCya to play games with my buddy where I shared my screen and she told me the answers to the problem. Sometimes, she shared her screen and played games. However, as I introduced playing games, they increasingly wanted to play more and got distracted by this sometimes. However, this was an efficient way to learn, teach, increasingly get close to the buddy as a helper, and help them focus.

Through this, I learned a way to teach and get closer to younger children (my buddy). This would help later in future educational and volunteering opportunities relating to teaching young children. Another skill I learned through this was persistence. This is because I tried my best to find other ways I can satisfy my buddies' needs in order to successfully focus throughout the class. I attempted multiple ways and researched more ways throughout the semester. Another skill I learned through this was patience. I learned to wait for my buddy to focus, come to their seat to prepare for class, and learn, and actively participate in class in a more entertaining way for little kids. Overall, through the peer-to-peer program, I was able to learn a lot of skills to overcome, and helped me reflect on my younger self in how I learned as a little child.