



Coinstructional Strategies

One Teach, One Observe

One teacher has primary responsibility while the other gathers specific observational information on students or the lead teacher. The key to this strategy is to focus the observation - where the teacher doing the observation is observing specific behaviors.

Example: One teacher can observe students for their understanding of directions while the other leads.

One Teach, One Assist

An extension of One Teach, One Observe. One teacher has primary instructional responsibility while the other circulates to check for understanding, assists students with their work, or monitors behaviors.

Example: While one teacher has the instructional lead, the person assisting can be the “voice” for the students when they don’t understand or are having difficulties.

Station Teaching

The coteaching 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.

Example: One teacher might lead a station where the students play a money math game and the other teacher could have a mock store where the students purchase items and make change.

Parallel Teaching

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 reduced student-to-teacher ratio.

Example: Both teachers are leading a ‘question and answer’ discussion on specific current events and the impact they have on our economy.

Differentiated Teaching

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 re-taught, extended, or remediated.

Example: One teacher may work with students who need re-teaching of a concept while the other teacher works with the rest of the students on enrichment.

Team Teaching

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 student’s perspective, there is no clearly defined leader - as both teachers share the instruction, are free to interject information, and are available to assist students and answer questions.

Example: Both instructors can share the reading of a story or text so that the students are hearing two voices.