Class Wide Peer Tutoring (CWPT)

7 basic operational components of CWPT

1. Multi-modality format
   - The students "hear", "see", "say", and "write" their responses, tapping into all of the learning modalities

2. Reciprocal and distributed practice
   - Provides the "active engagement" and "repeated practice" for all students.

3. Immediate error correction and feedback
   - Cornerstones of the peer tutoring success.

4. Game format with partner pairing and competing teams
   - It motivates, excites, and fights the boredom of traditional classroom instruction.

5. Built-in reinforcement
   - Provides an opportunity for students to feel good about themselves and to develop and be engaged in more appropriate social skills

6. High mastery levels
   - Achieved by every student because the content/subject matter materials are tailor-made to fit the individual student's needs.

7. Measured outcomes
   - A solid foundation for monitoring learning and overall academic improvements is built into CWPT.

Key Steps in CWPT

1. Determine goals for each peer tutoring activity.
2. Target specific skills to be practiced.
3. Select appropriate materials that match learning objectives and that can be implemented within a peer tutoring format.
5. Review classroom rules and teach new rules when appropriate.
6. Assess and rank students bases on abilities.
7. Pair students of varying achievement levels.
8. Practice peer-tutoring procedures before implementing them with academic tasks.
9. Divide peer-tutoring time into halves so each player has equal time as coach and as player.
10. Signal students when it is time to switch roles.
11. Set goals for tutoring pairs and provide positive reinforcement for tutoring pairs that meet goals.
12. Provide response record sheets so you can evaluate the performance of individual students.

References:
What is CWPT?
Class-Wide Peer Tutoring (CWPT) is a teaching strategy based on reciprocal peer tutoring and group reinforcement wherein an entire classroom of students is actively engaged in the process of learning and practicing basic academic skills simultaneously in a systematic and fun way.

Who can benefit from CWPT?
The CWPT program was originally developed and used with special education students in their mainstream classrooms. It was very evident early on that the procedures were not only effective for the targeted students, but for the entire classroom of students regardless of their ability levels. Thus, CWPT has been researched and proven effective with the following student populations:
- Students with special needs
- Educationally labeled students
- Students at risk of school failure
- Students who are culturally and linguistically diverse
- Students with ADD and ADHD
- Students from pre-school to high school age levels and beyond

How is CWPT different from other traditional classroom instruction?
In traditional classrooms, the teacher is the main content delivery person, and the basic content delivery system is through teacher lecture and passive student learning and exposure. In a CWPT classroom, the students become the content delivery persons for one another, an active multi-modality delivery system drives the one-to-one practice sessions, and students are provided with numerous opportunities to respond directly with the content being learned. CWPT provides:
- One-to-one student pairs to teach and help each other learn.
- An opportunity for students to earn points and be reinforced for learning.
- A systematic game format that promotes self-improvement and enhances both class competition and social skills.
- An immediate feedback system that attempts to achieve "errorless" learning.
- Routine assessment evaluations to monitor and maintain both class and individual academic gains and progress.

What are the benefits of CWPT?
CWPT benefits for the teacher:
- An opportunity to visually and verbally monitor and evaluate student academic progress immediately as it happens.
- Implementation of an effective academic procedure to provide instruction to all students at the same time.
- Developing content to remediate individual deficits, whether for higher, average, or lower ability students.
- Being immediately available to provide feedback and assistance to all student pairs.
- Increased opportunities for incidental teaching based on student's needs.

CWPT benefits for students:
- Significantly increased "opportunities to respond" and student participation in all academic skill areas.
- Close learning "coaching" with immediate error correction.
- Positive feedback from both the classroom teacher and their peer partner.
- A learning strategy that taps into the various learning styles or modalities to process academic information via their strongest learning modality.
- Increased opportunities for positive social/academic interactions with the classroom teacher and other student peers.

How can CWPT be used?
CWPT is so flexible, adaptable, and so dependable that it can be used with and in any academic subject or content area including:
- Reading and comprehension
- Spelling
- Math
- Language Arts
- Geography/History
- Sciences
- Any and every content area
- CWPT lends itself most easily to content subject areas that are rote learning in nature, but it only takes a minimal additional effort on the part of the teacher to convert higher-level thinking process subject matter into a tutoring format for their students.