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Opportunities to Respond: Peer Tutoring

Peer tutoring represents a class of practices and strategies that employ peers as one-on-one teachers to provide individualized instruction, practice, repetition, and clarification of concepts. These approaches have been shown to increase engagement, but also have a variety of benefits for both peer tutors and peer tutees:

- Tutors gain a deeper understanding of the material by having to teach it
- Learning strategies may generalize to other academic tasks
- Tutors may experience increased sense of responsibility and concern
- Tutors may experience enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Tutoring may promote pro-social behaviors among students.

Steps to Setting up Peer Tutoring

1. Peer tutoring can be incorporated into the class routine or on an as needed basis
2. Select peer tutors
 - a. Peer tutors should be students who work well with others and have a strong understanding of the materials, concepts and ideas well enough to explain to others
3. Peer tutors should be given some basic rules like:
 - a. Don't do the work for the student, help them complete the work
 - b. Keep the focus on the work/assignment
 - c. Try and avoid conflict
 - d. Use positive statements
4. Teach tutors to model behaviors like listening, raising hand for help and asking the teacher for help
5. Pair peer tutors with students that need help
 - a. Peer tutors may rotate from one student to another or remain with one student for a longer period
6. Teachers should always ensure the peer tutors have grasped the concepts themselves before moving on to help others