



Near Peer Program | 8 Tips

How to Run a Successful Near Peer Program

Near peers are slightly older students who act as role models and assistants for younger students. They have a similar background, culture, and/or school experience and are viewed as having achieved some success. They are not always experts – their value lies in being slightly more advanced, having recently experienced and overcome challenges similar to those facing the younger students, and the ability to build relationships with the younger students.



1 Intentionally recruit.

Recruit young people who enjoy teaching and working with children, are familiar with the local community, and that represent a range of personality types, skill sets, and backgrounds.

2 Present clear expectations.

Make sure near peers understand the goals of the class, the time commitment, and the importance of acting like **role models**.



3 Provide training.

Set up times and provide support for near peers to practice using the software, leading activities, and doing **classroom management**.

4 Set up a communication system.

Provide access to lesson plans for class preparation, and **have a plan** for sending each other updates about schedule changes.





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5 Give ongoing support.

Build on their skills and comfort level, continuously **assess and train** as needed, and help them **address challenges** to class preparation and attendance.



6 Personalize the experience.

Find out each near peer's motivation

for participating, and provide opportunities for them to get the kind of experience they want.

7 Build a community of support.

Create systems for near peers to **share challenges and strategies** with each other.



8 Learn from them.

Solicit, listen to and consider implementing near peers' ideas of how to make the experience better for them and the younger students.

