

What is Co-Teaching?

Co-teaching is when a general education teacher and a special education teacher work together to plan and deliver meaningful instruction to a diverse population of students. Co-teaching has many benefits for students and teachers. For example, co-teaching allows for a more inclusive educational model, more time for teacher collaboration, and more adult support during learning activities. There are 6 different models of co-teaching that are frequently used in the classroom.

The 6-Models of Co-Teaching

One Teach, One Observe

Description:

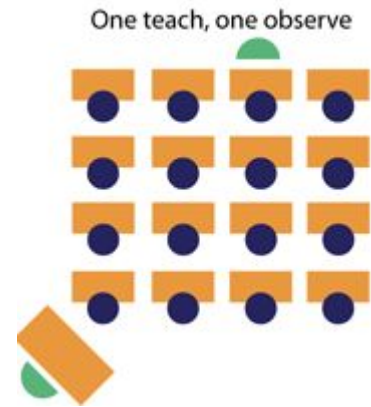
- A focused observation by one teacher while the other delivers instruction

How to Prepare:

- The type and form of the data that will be collected

When to Use:

- In a new co-teaching situation
- To monitor student progress (IEP goals)
- To collect behavioral data



One Teach, One Drift

Description:

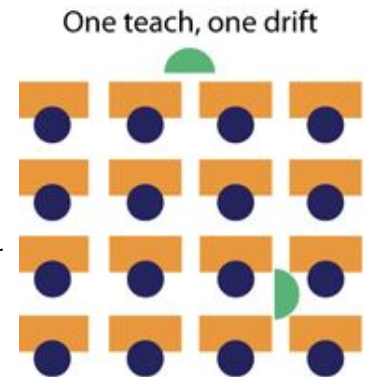
- One teacher drifts to provide unobtrusive assistance while the other teaches

How to Prepare:

- Teachers identify specific students for drifter to target during specific portions of the lesson
- Identify clear expectations around behavior when working with drifting teacher

When to Use:

- Lesson lends itself to one lead teacher
- One teacher has expertise in that specific area
- In a lesson where students require close monitoring



Parallel Teaching

Description:

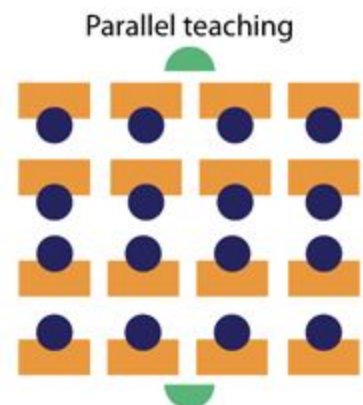
- Both teachers conduct the same content/lesson simultaneously

How to Prepare:

- Both teachers internalize the lesson

When to Use:

- When a lower adult-student ratio will improve instructional efficiency
- To increase student participation
- For activities such as drill and practice, reteaching, or review. Not best for introducing new material.



Station Teaching

Description:

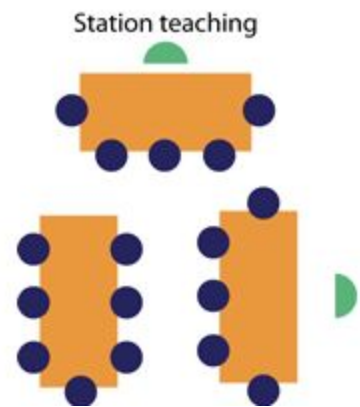
- Teachers divide content and students while students rotate from one teacher to another
- Sometimes includes an independent work station

How to Prepare:

- Teachers identify specific student grouping and procedures for how to effectively manage stations
- Both teachers internalize their instructional content

When to Use:

- In lessons when part of planned instruction is review
- When several lesson topics comprise instruction
- To provide explicit differentiation



Alternative Teaching

Description:

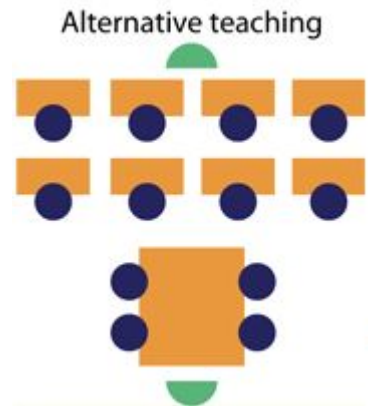
- A large group completes the planned lesson while a small group completes an alternative lesson or the same lesson taught at different levels
- Could take the entire class period or just a few minutes for a section of the lesson

How to Prepare:

- Determine effective student grouping
- Identify at which portion of the lesson the alternative teaching will occur and how this will be different

When to Use:

- When students' mastery of concepts taught or about to be taught varies significantly
- For enrichment purposes
- When some students are working on a parallel curriculum



Team Teaching

Description:

- Both teachers deliver the same instruction at the same time
- Both teachers speak freely/purposely during large group instruction (conversation, role playing, modeling, paraphrasing)

How to Prepare:

- Internalize the lesson
- Determine who will deliver what and when
- Identify pacing guidelines

When to Use:

- When shared delivery will be more impactful and there is equal experience level amongst teachers
- When teachers have experience and a high sense of comfort
- When a goal of instruction is to demonstrate some type of interaction to students

