

# 10 Ways to Co-Teach in the VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

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- 1) **Cover for your co-teacher.** If you are teaching together and your partner's toddler is thumping her with a *My Little Pony* figurine, take over for a few moments and distract the group by showing off your dog or by playing a fiddle solo.
- 2) **Split up.** If you have a goal of contacting all your students personally twice a month, cut the task in half. Each of you can call half the group and have more time to chat and connect.
- 3) **Have one teach while one makes the lesson multi-sensory.** This one can really be exciting virtually! If one of you is teaching Spanish vocabulary words related to wardrobe, the other can be rifling through a closet and showing each item as it's named. If one of you is teaching about fractions, the other can be baking in the kitchen and showing examples of halves and quarters.
- 4) **Try station teaching virtually.** Each of you can teach a small group while another group completes a task or activity on their own. Rotate students through the stations in an hour, day or week.
- 5) **Try parallel teaching virtually.** Have each teacher focus on just half of the group. You can teach a mini-lesson or have students engage in a discussion.
- 6) **Try an anchor teaching model.** Give them a task to work on independently (if possible) and pull kids individually to chat, support, or assess. For instance, during a morning when students are assigned writing tasks, one of you can be available for writing conferences while the other connects with kids who need extra support or IEP goal practice.
- 7) **Model stress-relief.** This is a tough time. Talk as a team about the tools you are using to unwind and stay centered. One of you can recite a meditation script while the other engages in the meditation. One of you can demonstrate a breathing technique while the other copies it. You can do this synchronously with a group or make some video clips to post.
- 8) **Expand the team.** As you teach synchronously and (even when you don't) consider involving all collaborative partners to participate. Invite your school custodian or building engineer to read to the students via video. If you receive support from an occupational therapist during the year, he may want to design some movement breaks for your group and teach them during a Zoom call.
- 9) **Divide and conquer.** In some instances, students may need materials and supports as much or more than they need daily lessons. If you have very young students or learners with complex needs, you may need to create visual supports, learning games, and teaching tools to "porch drop", e-mail, or mail home. Be sure that you share responsibilities for these tasks.
- 10) **Provide support.** Lean on your partner and let them lean on you (well, virtually, anyway). Be there for one another as you collaborate from afar.

