



Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) (Mathematics)

Elementary School

-  PALS has strong evidence of effectiveness for elementary school mathematics. The two qualifying studies included in this review showed effect sizes of +0.10 and +0.24.

Middle/High School

-  PALS has insufficient evidence of effectiveness for middle/high school mathematics. The one qualifying study included in this review showed an effect size of -0.30.

About PALS

In PALS, children work in pairs to learn mathematical concepts with each other. Children alternate every 15 minutes as tutor and tutee, using specific strategies for correction procedures. PALS is used as a supplement to traditional textbook-based instruction approximately 30 minutes a day, three times a week.

More on these reviews


For more on the reviews of PALS, read the BEE reviews of [elementary mathematics](#) and [middle/high school mathematics](#).

More on PALS


For more information on PALS, visit kc.vanderbilt.edu/pals or e-mail pals@vanderbilt.edu.

Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) (Reading)


Beginning Reading

-  PALS has strong evidence of effectiveness for beginning reading. Across six qualifying studies, the weighted mean effect size was +0.44.


Upper Elementary School

-  PALS has limited evidence of effectiveness for upper elementary school reading. The one qualifying study included in this review showed a mean effect size of +0.36.

Middle/High School

-  PALS has limited evidence of effectiveness for middle/high school reading. The three qualifying studies included in this review showed a weighted mean effect size of +0.15.

Struggling Readers

-  PALS has strong evidence of effectiveness for struggling readers. The four qualifying studies included in this review showed a mean effect size of +0.49.

About PALS

PALS uses a technique in which children work in pairs, taking turns as teacher and learner, to learn a structured sequence of literacy skills, such as phonemic awareness, phonics, sound blending, passage reading, and story retelling.



Best Evidence Encyclopedia (BEE)

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For more on the reviews of PALS, read the BEE reviews of [beginning reading](#), [upper elementary reading](#), [middle/high school reading](#), and [struggling readers](#).

More on PALS

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The Best Evidence Encyclopedia (BEE)

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