

Kagan Strategy: Pairs Check *

Steps for the Strategy

1. Divide student into groups of four and have them work with their shoulder partner.
2. Give each team one worksheet with problems or questions.
3. Partner A works the first problem or question while Partner B coaches and praises when necessary.
4. Partners reverse the roles.
5. After two problems are completed, pairs check with their partners across the table (face partners).
6. Team celebrates when they agree on both problems. Coaching occurs when teams disagree.
7. Steps 3 – 6 are repeated for every two problems/questions.

Management Tips

1. A sheet defining the responsibilities of each partner may be helpful when first using this strategy with students.
2. Complete first two problems as part of your modeling.
3. Model good coaching and praising skills.
4. Model the difference between coaching and giving the answer.
5. Use only one handout and pencil per pair.

Social Skills

1. Patience-giving others time to think
2. Giving and accepting appropriate praising
3. Giving and accepting constructive criticism
4. Coaching others
5. Asking for help
6. Offering help
7. Appropriate noise level

*Based on various materials available from Kagan Publishing.