

1. **Pair Teaching:** Students eventually get tired of being taught at and like to be acknowledged as helpful members in the learning environment. They do not like to think of themselves as dependent on tutors and teachers. To reinforce this idea that they can be helpful to each other, I have older students help younger buddies with assignments and I only monitor to ensure that there is no wrong information being passed down. This allows students to develop leadership abilities and feel responsible as they are contributing to somebody else's education. At the same time, their knowledge of concepts is reinforced when they communicate it to another person.
2. **Game Calling:** Students do not learn effectively when they are stressed. They panic and react irrationally and often try to escape the stress as soon as possible. This is the main reason why I do not like to resort to cold-calling while revising concepts with the buddies. Instead, I gather students in a circle and we play duck-duck-goose or catch and use those games as a way to choose who answers a question. This system breaks monotony, alleviates boredom, and creates a relaxing atmosphere for the students to recall information that they have recently learned.
3. **Sporcle:** Often students do not have enough homework to keep them busy for an entire tutoring session. When this is the case, I do not allow them to surf youtube or facebook as the students do not make productive use of these resources. Instead, we play sporcle quizzes. This provides students with the right balance of fun and learning so that students do not get tired of constantly being taught to but they still learn. This also encourages them to seek more knowledge, something I have frequently seen when they are not satisfied with their sporcle scores.
4. **Turn-Taking:** When students struggle with reading, they get easily frustrated and lose interest in reading a book, even if the plot is interesting to them. In such situations, I like to give them a break so we switch off so that the student and tutor alternate reading pages. This helps them stay focused and engaged in the literature without being burdened by the constant challenge and pressure of reading.
5. **Talk about it:** When students are asked to write an essay or a long-answer, they have trouble writing down an outline to their argument. This is primarily because their writing

skills are poor and still in the process of being developed. In such situations, students appreciate being given the opportunity to prove that they know the material and are only struggling to communicate it. This is why I allow them to talk out their essay or answer and ask them to write down their points soon after they say them so that their ideas are not forgotten.

6. **Educational Activities:** Students need a break from lectures and worksheets. At study buddies, we like to organize activities that engage and educate students without creating the stagnancy of a classroom environment. Such activities include kickball to learn teamwork and planning, concerts and performances to learn discipline and hard-work, talent shows so that students are given an opportunity to share their passion, and creative writing workshops to help students find the joy in writing. Students respond well to such activities because they find it easier to learn in such applied settings than in the rigid classroom environment.
7. **Tell me about it:** Students will often comment on the work they are reading. Some comments seem immediately useful, such as comments about the personalities of a fictional character. Other comments can come across as annoying, like when they complain about how boring a book. In all of these situations, it is easy to engage them in conversation by asking a simple “Why?” or asking them to “tell me about it”. Such conversations provide the students with a break from the monotonous task of reading without breaking their focus on the material. This can be used until you think the student has had enough of a break and can go back to the task at hand.
8. **What’s going on?:** The students who come to Study Buddies mostly grow up in impoverished settings and have little access to intellectual debates through conversations with adults or the news. One-on-one tutoring provides a safe and supportive space to introduce and discuss controversial news stories and implications of current events. Such conversations may not necessarily be directly related to the student’s homework. However, it develops their critical thinking skills, communication skills, general knowledge, and ability to maintain composure in stressful settings.