

## PALS:

## A Reading Strategy for Grades K-1

Use this outline to follow along with the module's main features. The blank "Notes" panels below each section are interactive and can be filled in using Adobe Acrobat. Otherwise, print this document and record your notes by hand.

## Module Home

- **Module Description:** This module outlines the benefits of implementing PALS for Grades K–1, a peer tutoring strategy in which students work in pairs to strengthen their reading skills. Also included are step-by-step instructions for each of the PALS activities as well as printable PALS materials (est. completion time: 1 hour).
- *STAR Legacy Cycle*
- **Related to This Module**
  - [Link: Module Outline](#)
  - [Video: Navigating an IRIS STAR Legacy Module](#)
  - [Link: IRIS and Adult Learning Theory](#)
  - [Wrap-Around Content Map](#)

## Challenge

- **Video:** The kindergarten and first-grade teachers of Washington Elementary begin to look for research-validated instructional practices to supplement the core reading program for their grade levels. Such practices should accommodate the individual learning needs of Washington Elementary's diverse student body.

Notes

## Initial Thoughts

- What characteristics might Mrs. Doris and Ms. Chandler look for in a reading approach?
- What types of activities can Mrs. Doris and Ms. Chandler use to increase their students' reading skills?
- How can Mrs. Doris and Ms. Chandler implement these activities?

Notes

# PALS: A Reading Strategy for Grades K-1

## Perspectives & Resources

### ❖ Module Objectives

- After completing the entire Perspectives & Resources section and reviewing the accompanying activities, you should:
  - Recognize the instructional benefits of peer tutoring
  - Be able to implement K-PALS and first-grade PALS
- This IRIS Module aligns with the following licensure and program standards and topic areas...

Notes

### ❖ Page 1: Overview of PALS

- Link: ClassWide Peer Tutoring [definition]
- Characteristics of PALS [bulleted list]
  - Link: reciprocal peer tutoring [definition]
- Audio: Lynn Fuchs discusses PALS peer mediation component
- Audio: Doug Fuchs highlights some of the reading activities and the skills they address
- FYI

Notes

### ❖ Page 2: The Benefits of PALS

- Peer-mediated instruction allows teachers to... [bullet points]
- Research Shows
- PALS boasts a number of additional benefits for teachers and for students [bullet points]
- Audio: Nichole Lawson describes her own experiences with the benefits of PALS
- Audio: Stephanie Johnson describes her own experiences with the benefits of PALS
- FYI
  - Link: best practice [definition]

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Notes

## ❖ Page 3: PALS Activities for Kindergarten Students

- Research Shows
- Audio: Devin Kearns emphasizes that students as young as kindergarten can successfully implement PALS
- Audio: Nicole Lawson explains how PALS helped her to meet the curricular goals set forth for this grade level
- Audio: Stephanie Johnson emphasizes that students as young as kindergarten can successfully implement PALS
- K-PALS games or tasks
  - Link: First Sound Game
  - Link: Last Sound Game
  - Link: Rhyming Game
  - Link: Clap the Syllables
  - Link: Guess My Word Game
  - Link: What Sound?
  - Link: What Word?
  - Link: Sound Boxes
  - Link: Reading Sentences and Books
- K-PALS sessions are highly structured and follow a prescribed sequence [numbered list]

Notes

## ❖ Page 4: PALS Activities for First-Grade Students

- PALS for first-grade helps students to [bullet points]
- Research Shows
- Link: rocket words [definition]

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- First-grade PALS games or tasks
  - Link: Saying Sounds
  - Link: Sounding Out
  - Link: Sight Words
  - Link: Stories
  - Link: Speed Game
  - Link: Reading Books
- Audio: Devin Kearns explains that the 1st-grade PALS program—while introducing students to advanced skills—begins with simple, easily implemented activities

Notes

### ❖ Page 5: Pair Students

- Kindergarten
  - Link: Mrs. Doris's method for pairing her kindergarten students
- First grade
  - Link: Ms. Chandler's method for pairing her 1st-grade students
- Reasons for which student pairs might need to be altered, either temporarily or permanently
  - Link: Absenteeism
- Audio: Devin Kearns discusses considerations when pairing kindergarten students
- FYI

Notes

### ❖ Page 6: Prepare Materials

- Link: PALS Website
- Kindergarten Materials
  - Link: K-PALS rules poster
  - Link: Student assignment chart
  - Link: Point sheet

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- Mrs. Doris needs to make certain that she has... [bullet points]
- First-Grade Materials
  - Link: Star charts
  - Link: Point sheet
- Link: PALS rules
- Link: Assignment chart
- Link: Score board
- Ms. Chandler ponders the type of books she will choose for the pairs [bullet points]

Notes

**❖ Page 7: Train Students**

- Video: Introducing K-PALS
- Training procedures [numbered items with bullet points]
  - Link: Discuss the PALS approach
    - Link: PALS rules
  - Link: Model PALS activities
    - Link: PALS set-up procedures
  - Link: Allow time for guided practice
    - Link: Moving to partners
  - Link: Provide opportunities for independent practice
- Audio: Stephanie Johnson describes how she conducts PALS training and how the students respond

Notes

**❖ Page 8: Implement with Class**

- Link: K-PALS Implementation
- Link: First-Grade PALS Implementation
- Audio: Nichole Lawson emphasizes that consistency is a key to the successful implementation of PALS

## PALS: A Reading Strategy for Grades K-1

- Activity: Answer the questions
  - Video: Two students engaged in a PALS activity
- Audio: Devin Kearns then discusses considerations for teachers who notice that students are not mastering the concepts presented in a lesson
- Audio: Stephanie Johnson describes how she monitors her kindergarten class during PALS and what she looks for as she observes each pair
- Research Shows

Notes

### ❖ Page 9: Motivate Students and Maintain Interest

- Kindergarten
  - The teacher can award bonus points for...[bullet points]
- First-Grade
  - Awarding Bonus Points for Peer Pairs
  - Assigning Students to Teams [bullet points]
- Audio: Stephanie Johnson describes how she uses a team approach to motivate her kindergarten student

Notes

### ❖ Page 10: References & Additional Resources

- Suggested module citation
- References
- Additional Resources

### ❖ Page 11: Credits

- Suggested module citation
- Content Experts
- Module Developers
- Module Production Team
- Media Production Team

## PALS: A Reading Strategy for Grades K-1

- Media
- Expert Interviews

### Wrap Up

- Summary of the module
- Audio: Stephanie Johnson describes the enthusiasm she witnessed with her kindergarten students
- Revisit your Initial Thoughts responses

### Assessment

- Complete the numbered questions. Please note that the IRIS Center does not collect your Assessment responses. If this is a course assignment, you should turn them in to your professor using whatever method he or she requires.

Notes

# PALS: A Reading Strategy for Grades K-1

Notes

## You Have Completed This Module

- Give Us Your Feedback
  - Link: [Module feedback survey form](#)
- Professional Development Hours
  - Link: [IRIS PD Options](#)
- Related Resources [[links](#)]