

Transcript for a Short PALS Program Overview

Susan: PALS is a tier one, low intensity, supplemental reading program delivered in addition to the regular classroom teacher's balanced literacy program.

Interviewer: And can you walk me through how it works?

Susan: Well PALS also is a systematic, scientifically-validated approach allowing teachers to use, well, intensive instruction, a lot of corrective feedback, and a lot of consistent positive reinforcement. It also provides a lot of time, a lot of practice time for the students. So, a student may receive 10 – 15 individualized instructional experiences with any given PALS class. In JK/SK and grade 1, we may focus on phonological awareness development, phonics skills, vocabulary development, and fluency, and in grade 2, in our grade 2 PALS program we focus more so on comprehension, retell, summarizing, and predicting.

It is a 40-minute program. PALS stands for Peer Assisted Learning Strategies, so the children work in pairs. This allows the teacher to circulate, to observe, and to assist where necessary.

Narrator: Great. And how do you choose which students are paired together?

Susan: Through the use of curriculum based measurements teachers are allowed to set goals and monitor student progress over time. So given the results of the curriculum based measurements, teachers pair their students. They will reassess the students and, each month, create new pairs.

Narrator: Great. And what are some of the benefits that you've noticed from PALS?

Susan: PALS students increase their ability to work co-operatively. Of course their self-confidence increases. The children feel competent in their skills, and we've noticed that students are able to focus on a task for a longer period of time.

We build student capacity, and they increase in their ability to read. This absolutely transfers over into the classroom and to all subject areas.

