

What Works Clearinghouse



Peer Tutoring and Response Groups

Practice description *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* aims to improve the language and achievement of English language learners by pairing or grouping students to work on a task. The students may be grouped by age or ability (English-only, bilingual, or limited English proficient) or the groups may be mixed. Peer tutoring typically consists of two students assuming the roles of tutor and tutee, or “coach and player” roles. Peer response groups

give four or five students shared responsibility for a task, such as editing a passage or reading and answering comprehension questions. When working in a small group to edit a writing assignment, one student edits punctuation, another edits spelling, and another provides overall feedback on writing focus and clarity. Both peer tutoring pairs and peer response groups emphasize peer interaction and discussion to complete a task.¹

Research Three studies of *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* met the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) evidence standards. These studies included 118 English language learners from first to sixth grades in Florida, Texas, and Washington state.² The WWC

considers the extent of evidence for *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* to be small for English language development. No studies that met WWC evidence standards with or without reservations addressed reading achievement or mathematics achievement.

Effectiveness *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* was found to have positive effects on English language development.

	Reading achievement	Mathematics achievement	English language development
Rating of effectiveness	na	na	Positive effects
Improvement index ³	na	na	Average: +17 percentile points Range: +1 to +48 percentile points

na = not applicable

1. The descriptive information for this program was obtained from the research literature (Jun-Aug, 1985; Prater & Bermudez, 1993; and Serrano, 1987). Verification of the accuracy of the descriptive information for this practice, which is publicly available, is beyond the scope of this review.
2. The evidence presented in this report is based on available research. Findings and conclusions may change as new research becomes available.

Additional practice information

Developer and contact

Peer Tutoring and Response Groups does not have a developer responsible for providing information or materials.

Scope of use

Information is not available on the number or demographics of students, schools, or districts using this intervention.

Teaching

Peer Tutoring and Response Groups can be used by teachers during classroom instruction or as part of after-school programs. The process for implementing the groups depends on the specific instructional task and academic objective. Peer tutoring with assigned partners (tutor and tutee) is often used for tasks that require two students to work together to read or complete an assignment, such as reading a passage aloud and

Research

Four studies reviewed by the WWC investigated the effects of *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups*. Three studies (Jun-Aust, 1985; Prater & Bermudez, 1993; and Serrano, 1987) were randomized controlled trials that met WWC evidence standards. The remaining study was a single-subject design that is not included in this review because the WWC does not yet have standards for reviewing single-subject studies.

Met evidence standards

Jun-Aust (1985) studied 30 Korean English language learners in grades 1 through 6 from two elementary schools in Tacoma, Washington. The study compared a classroom “peer-pairing” intervention with a no-treatment comparison condition.

Prater and Bermudez (1993) studied 46 English language learners in fourth grade from two elementary schools in the Houston, Texas, metropolitan area. The study compared the use of small, heterogeneous peer response groups to provide feedback on

answering comprehension questions or using guided discussion questions to help practice conversation. Teachers may group students of varying abilities, such as pairing a bilingual student with one who is just beginning to learn English or an English-only student with a bilingual peer. Tutoring partners or small groups may focus on a range of academic tasks in reading, language, writing, and math, or they may be used solely for social support. Before implementing peer tutoring groups, students are trained to interact as tutor and tutee or to work in small groups. Specific instruction on tutoring procedures or how to assume individual roles in a group is required before implementing the routine use of this practice.

Cost

Information is not available about the costs of training and implementation of *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups*.

group members’ writing with a comparison group that did not use peer response groups for writing instruction.

Serrano (1987) studied 42 students with limited English language proficiency in grades 3–5. Students were native Spanish-speaking and were classified as migrants. The study took place at one elementary school in the School District of Indian River County, Florida. Two intervention groups were examined: bilingual tutoring (limited English proficient students were tutored by a bilingual student tutor) and English-only tutoring (limited English proficient students were tutored by an English-only tutor). The study’s comparison group consisted of students who did not receive peer tutoring.

Extent of evidence

The WWC categorizes the extent of evidence in each domain as small or moderate to large (see the [What Works Clearinghouse Extent of Evidence Categorization Scheme](#)). The extent of evidence takes into account the number of studies and the

3. These numbers show the average and range of student-level improvement indices for all findings across the studies.

Research *(continued)*

total sample size across the studies that met WWC evidence standards with or without reservations.⁴

The WWC considers the extent of evidence for *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* to be small for English language

development. No studies that met WWC evidence standards with or without reservations addressed reading achievement or mathematics achievement.

Effectiveness Findings

The WWC review of interventions for *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* addresses student outcomes in three domains: reading achievement, mathematics achievement, and English language development. None of the three studies that were reviewed for this intervention and that met WWC evidence standards addressed outcomes in the mathematics achievement domain or the reading achievement domain.

English language development. Jun-Aust (1985) examined subpopulations of students based on popularity (low integrative motivation versus high integrative motivation, or the level of desire to be liked by others) within peer-pairing and non-peer-pairing groups. WWC combined subpopulation data to examine the overall effects of peer pairing compared with non-peer pairing and found no statistically significant effect on listening comprehension. The study author reported that peer pairing and popularity (integrative motivation) had statistically significant effects on language behavior. When the WWC combined subgroup data within the peer-pairing and non-peer-pairing groups to examine their overall effects, the analysis found peer pairing to have a statistically significant effect on student language behavior; there was no statistically significant effect when talking to the teacher and when being addressed by the teacher. However, the overall size of the impact of the intervention was large enough to be considered substantively important by WWC standards (that is, at least 0.25).

Prater and Bermudez (1993) reported statistically significant differences favoring the peer response group on the number

of words written and number of ideas presented in student compositions but no statistically significant differences in overall composition quality and number of sentences written. The WWC confirmed the statistical significance of these findings. The overall size of the impact of the intervention was large enough to be considered substantively important by WWC standards (that is, at least 0.25).

Serrano (1987) examined effects of the tutoring by a bilingual tutor and the tutoring by an English-only speaking peer on the IDEA Oral Language Proficiency Test (IPT I) and found no statistically significant effects for either strategy. The average effect size across the two versions of implementation was neither statistically significant nor large enough to be considered substantively important (that is, at least 0.25).

Two of the studies reviewed met WWC evidence standards (Jun-Aust, 1985; Prater & Bermudez, 1993) because statistically significant findings were reported.

Rating of effectiveness

The WWC rates the effects of an intervention in a given outcome domain as: positive, potentially positive, mixed, no discernible effects, potentially negative, or negative. The rating of effectiveness takes into account four factors: the quality of the research design, the statistical significance of the findings,⁵ the size of the difference between participants in the intervention and the comparison conditions, and the consistency in findings across studies (see the [WWC Intervention Rating Scheme](#)).

4. The Extent of Evidence categorization was developed to tell readers how much evidence was used to determine the intervention rating, focusing on the number and size of studies. Additional factors associated with a related concept, external validity, such as the students' demographics and the types of settings in which studies took place, are not taken into account for the categorization.
5. The level of statistical significance was reported by the study authors or, where necessary, calculated by the WWC to correct for clustering within classrooms or schools and for multiple comparisons. For an explanation, see the [WWC Tutorial on Mismatch](#). See [Technical Details of WWC-Conducted Computations](#) for the formulas the WWC used to calculate the statistical significance. In the case of *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups*, corrections for clustering or multiple comparisons were needed.

The WWC found *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* to have positive effects on English language development

Improvement index

The WWC computes an improvement index for each individual finding. In addition, within each outcome domain, the WWC computes an average improvement index for each study and an average improvement index across studies (see [Technical Details of WWC-Conducted Computations](#)). The improvement index represents the difference between the percentile rank of the average student in the intervention condition versus the percentile rank of the average student in the comparison condition. Unlike the rating of effectiveness, the improvement index is based entirely on the size of the effect, regardless of the statistical significance of the effect, the study design, or the analyses. The improvement index can take on values between -50 and +50, with positive numbers denoting results favorable to the intervention group.

References

Met WWC evidence standards

- Jun-Aust, H. (1985, March). *Individual differences in second language learning of Korean immigrant students*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Second/Foreign Language Acquisition by Children, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Prater, D. L., & Bermudez, A. B. (1993). Using peer response groups with limited English proficient writers. *Bilingual Research Journal*, 17(1&2), 99–116.
- Serrano, C. J. (1987). The effectiveness of cross-level peer involvement in the acquisition of English as a second lan-

The average improvement index for the English language development domain is +17 percentile points across the three studies, with a range of +1 to +48 percentile points across findings.

Summary

The WWC reviewed four studies on *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups*. Three of these studies met WWC evidence standards; the remaining study was not included in this review because the WWC does not yet have standards for reviewing single-subject designs. Based on these three studies, the WWC found positive effects for English language development. The evidence presented in this report may change as new research emerges.

guage by Spanish-speaking migrant children. *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 48(07), 1682A. (UMI No. 8723140)

Disposition pending

Greenwood, C. R., Arreaga-Mayer, C., Utley, C. A., Gavin, K. M., & Terry, B. J. (2001). ClassWide peer tutoring learning management system: Applications within elementary-level English language learners. *Remedial & Special Education*, 22, 34–47.⁶

For more information about specific studies and WWC calculations, please see the [WWC Peer Tutoring and Response Groups Technical Appendices](#).

6. One single-subject study was identified but is not included in this review because the WWC does not yet have standards for reviewing single-subject studies.

Appendix

Appendix A1.1 Study characteristics: Jun-Aust, 1985 (randomized controlled trial)¹

Characteristic	Description
Study citation	Jun-Aust, H. (1985, March). <i>Individual differences in second language learning of Korean immigrant students</i> . Paper presented at the International Conference on Second/ Foreign Language Acquisition by Children, Oklahoma City, OK.
Participants	The study included 30 Korean English language learners in grades 1–6. ² All students participated in “pull-out” bilingual education conducted by English-speaking Korean teachers. Students who qualified for the study were identified as limited English proficient on the school district’s language proficiency test (Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, PPVT) and on a reassessment of the PPVT just before the study began, scoring at or below the 20th percentile. All participating students were also recent immigrants to the United States (less than six months). Classes of students were randomly assigned into peer-pairing or non-peer-pairing conditions to avoid placing children from the same class in the intervention and comparison groups.
Setting	The study took place at two elementary schools located seven blocks apart in the Tacoma Public School District in Tacoma, Washington.
Intervention	The 14 Korean students in the intervention group participated in a 4.5-month peer-pairing program designed to increase social interaction, language development, and listening comprehension skills. When they started the program, the Korean students were asked to identify an English-speaking child from their classes with whom they would want to work. The chosen peers were then seated together by their classroom teachers, who asked the English-speaking peers to help the Korean students by explaining English to them, answering their questions, or being their friends.
Comparison	The 16 students in the comparison condition continued to participate in all regular classroom activities without the peer-pair program or teacher prompts to help peers learn English.
Primary outcomes and measurement	The primary outcomes were listening comprehension, oral language production, and actual classroom language behavior. Listening comprehension was measured by a researcher-developed assessment that required the student to listen to an audio tape of a monolingual English speaker and answer questions about daily tasks and Korean culture. Oral language production was assessed by asking students to tell stories in English about two pictures. Responses were audiotaped and scored according to a five-point rubric. Actual language behavior was evaluated with an event sampling classroom observation system that recorded when a target student was talking to or being addressed by a peer or the teacher.
Teacher training	Teachers attended a meeting that discussed second language learning and the purpose of using peer-pairs in the classroom and provided an operational definition of the concept. During the meeting teachers matched pairs according to the Korean student requests and created a new classroom seating chart for the pairs. Teachers were also instructed specifically to tell American peers to help their Korean peers to learn English by explaining to them, answering their questions, or just being friends (Jun-Aust, 1985, p. 14).

1. Jun-Aust (1985) examined the use of peer-pairing on student listening comprehension and English-language development. After students were assigned to a peer-pairing or a non-peer-pairing condition, students were rated by teachers and classroom peers as having low or high integrative motivation, or “the desire to be liked by others.” Jun-Aust presented posttest results by group (peer-pair condition vs. non-peer-pair condition) with high and low integrative motivation subpopulations in each group. The WWC pooled high and low integrative motivation subgroups within each condition to examine the effectiveness of overall peer-pairing versus non-peer pairing. Due to the report’s general focus on tutoring and peer-response groups, examining effects on high and low integrative subpopulations is beyond the scope of this report.
2. Minimal attrition occurred in this study. Thirty-three students qualified for participation. Two students from the peer-pairing group moved out of district, and one student from the comparison group moved out of district.

Appendix A1.2 Study characteristics: Prater & Bermudez, 1993 (randomized controlled trial)

Characteristic	Description
Study citation	Prater, D. L., & Bermudez, A. B. (1993). Using peer response groups with limited English proficient writers. <i>Bilingual Research Journal</i> , 17(1&2), 99–116.
Participants	The study included 46 English language learners in fourth grade who were randomly assigned to teachers and sections. Each teacher taught two sections, one randomly assigned to the peer-response intervention group and one to the comparison group. The intervention group included 27 students, of whom 25 were Hispanic, two were Asian-American, 16 were female, and 11 were male. The comparison group included 19 students, of whom 18 were Hispanic, one was Asian-American, 10 were female, and nine were male. Students ranged in age from 9 to 11 years old. All students had received English as a Second Language (ESL) or bilingual education services but were currently participating in general education fourth-grade classrooms. All students were considered by their teachers to have limited English proficiency that might put them at risk with respect to academic achievement.
Setting	The study took place at two elementary schools in the Houston, Texas, metropolitan area.
Intervention	Students participated in a four-week intervention that used small, mixed-ability peer response groups to provide feedback on group members' writing compositions. The 27 participating ELL students were randomly assigned to peer response groups consisting of four or five students. Peer response groups included both the ELL students participating in the study and students from the regular classroom. Generally, one or two ELL students were in each small group. During the first week, the teacher modeled how groups would work and demonstrated how students would respond to the writing of their peers. In the groups, the student author would read his or her composition, the group members would say what they liked about it, the student author would ask for help on a particular aspect, and the group members would suggest which parts of the composition to improve. During weeks two through four, students produced one composition a week. They met to select a topic, shared their first drafts, rewrote compositions based on group feedback, brought compositions to the group for final editing, incorporated changes, and wrote a final copy. For many of the peer group meetings, students assumed specific roles, with one student looking for errors in spelling, another for incomplete sentences, and another for capitalization and punctuation errors.
Comparison	Students in the comparison condition did individual composition writing (prewriting, drafting, revision, and editing) while students in the treatment condition participated in their peer response groups.
Primary outcomes and measurement	The primary outcome domain was written expression, which was assessed with a quality of composition score (holistic rubric score), total words written, total number of sentences written, and total number of idea units (single clauses) written. ¹
Teacher training	Information on teacher training was not provided.

1. According to Prater & Bermudez (1993), the purpose of the study was to expand English language development through student discourse and writing. Written expression was considered under the English language development domain in this study due to the language and discourse facilitated during the peer response writing groups.

Appendix A1.3 Study Characteristics: Serrano, 1987 (randomized controlled trial)

Characteristic	Description
Study citation	Serrano, C. J. (1987). The effectiveness of cross-level peer involvement in the acquisition of English as a second language by Spanish-speaking migrant children. <i>Dissertation Abstracts International</i> , 48(07), 1682A. (UMI No. 8723140)
Participants	The study included 42 English language learners in grades 3–5. ¹ These students were native Spanish-speaking and were children of Mexican and Mexican-American migrant workers who seasonally reside in Florida to pick citrus fruits. English language learners were administered a pretest, the IDEA Oral Language Proficiency Test I (K-6) (Ballard, Tighe, & Dalton, 1982, as cited by Serrano, 1987) and were divided into two levels of English language proficiency. Students at each level were randomly assigned to one of three groups. Overall, 12 students were assigned to the bilingual tutoring group, 13 students were assigned to the English-only tutoring group, and 17 students were assigned to the comparison group. The analytic sample for the first and second interventions is 29 and 30 students respectively.
Setting	The study took place at one elementary school in the School District of Indian River County, Florida.
Intervention	Students participated in a three-month tutoring program. Two versions of the program were examined: a tutoring group where the ELL tutee worked with a bilingual (somewhat proficient in both English and Spanish) student tutor and a tutoring group where the ELL tutee worked with an English-speaking tutor who did not speak Spanish. Students were assigned to their tutors based on age, sex, and grade level criteria. Tutoring included daily 20-minute sessions. A total of 37 sessions were implemented in the study for a total of 12.3 hours of tutoring. Tutoring focused on English language instruction and included lessons on life skills and every day tasks. For example, tutors introduced vocabulary, played a cassette tape that asked tutees to respond to directions and commands, and used a set of pictures to help ask comprehension questions. Each tutoring lesson focused on a life skill task (such as caring for a cut).
Comparison	Students in the comparison condition did not receive tutoring. The control group consisted of whole-group second language instruction led by the teacher.
Primary outcomes and measurement	The primary outcome was oral language proficiency as measured by the IDEA Oral Language Proficiency Test I (K-6) (Ballard, Tighe, & Dalton, 1982, as cited by Serrano, 1987). The test assesses syntax, comprehension, vocabulary, and verbal expression.
Teacher training	Student tutors participated in a series of 20-minute training sessions before tutoring began. Training content included explanations and demonstrations of effective second language teaching, modeling instructions, prompting, asking questions, and managing time and behavior. Role-playing was also included in training where the trainer played the role of the learner to help tutors practice tutoring skills.

1. The study began with 50 students. Minor attrition occurred, with eight students moving out of the district during the implementation of the study. Of the eight students, three left the bilingual tutor group, four left the English-only tutor group, and one left the comparison group.

Appendix A2 Outcome measures in the English language development domain

Outcome measure	Description
Listening comprehension	Listening comprehension was measured with an individually-administered, researcher-developed assessment that required a student to listen to an audio tape of a monolingual English speaker and answer questions about daily tasks and Korean culture (as cited in Jun-Aust, 1985).
Oral language production	Oral language production was assessed by asking students to tell stories in English about two pictures. Responses were audiotaped and scored according to a five-point rubric (as cited in Jun-Aust, 1985).
Language behavior	Actual language behavior was evaluated based on an event time sampling classroom observation system that recorded when a target student was talking to or being addressed by a peer or the teacher. The language behaviors were charted at 10-second intervals during four 3-minute observations: two observations during classroom instruction and two observations during recess (as cited by Jun-Aust, 1985).
Composition quality	A six-point holistic scoring guide was used to determine overall English writing quality. Each composition was scored by two independent readers. Scores that diverged more than one point were read by a third reader who assigned a final score. Cohen's Kappa was calculated on the unarbitrated scores and yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.94 on the pretest and 0.92 on the posttest (as cited in Prater & Bermudez, 1993).
Total words written	The number of total words in a composition (as cited in Prater & Bermudez, 1993).
Total sentences written	The number of total sentences in a composition (as cited in Prater & Bermudez, 1993).
Total idea units written	The number of total independent or dependent single clauses in a composition (as cited in Prater & Bermudez, 1993).
IDEA Oral Language Proficiency Test (IPT I)	A standardized measure of oral language proficiency in syntax, comprehension, vocabulary, and verbal expression. Verbal and visual stimuli are presented to the student to elicit speech which is then assessed for correctness, appropriateness, and completeness (as cited in Serrano, 1987a,b).

Appendix A3 Summary of study findings included in the rating for the English language development domain¹

Outcome measure	Study sample	Sample size (schools/students)	Authors' findings from the study					
			Mean outcome (standard deviation ²)		Mean difference ³ (Peer Tutoring – comparison)	WWC calculations		
			Peer Tutoring group	Comparison group		Effect size ⁴	Statistical significance ⁵ (at $\alpha = 0.05$)	Improvement index ⁶
Jun-Aust, 1985 (randomized controlled trial)⁷								
Listening comprehension	Grades 1–6	2/30	9.00 (2.90)	7.70 (1.90)	1.30	0.51	ns	+19
Oral language production	Grades 1–6	2/30	20.8 (5.80)	17.8 (6.30)	3.00	0.48	ns	+19
Language behavior – talking to peer	Grades 1–6	2/30	14.00 (6.99)	5.35 (5.29)	8.65	1.34	Statistically significant	+41
Language behavior – addressed from subject to peer	Grades 1–6	2/30	11.60 (4.87)	2.90 (2.41)	8.70	2.16	Statistically significant	+48
Language behavior – talking to teacher	Grades 1–6	2/30	1.05 (1.33)	0.90 (2.07)	0.15	0.09	ns	+3
Language behavior – addressed from teacher to subject	Grades 1–6	2/30	0.45 (0.78)	0.50 (1.84)	0.05	0.04	ns	+1
Average⁸ for English language development (Jun-Aust, 1985)						0.77	Statistically significant	+22
Prater & Bermudez, 1993 (randomized controlled trial)⁷								
Composition quality	Grade 4	2/46	2.33 (1.01)	2.16 (1.26)	0.17	0.15	ns	+6
Total words written	Grade 4	2/46	100.22 (50.52)	70.37 (42.63)	29.85	0.62	ns	+23
Total sentences written	Grade 4	2/46	8.52 (6.07)	6.68 (4.51)	1.84	0.33	ns	+13
Total idea units written	Grade 4	2/46	15.93 (8.32)	9.89 (7.81)	6.04	0.73	Statistically significant	+27
Average⁸ for English language development (Prater & Bermudez, 1993)						0.46	ns	+17
Serrano, 1987 (randomized controlled trial)^{7,9}								
IDEA Oral Language Proficiency Test (IPT I)	Grades 3–5 with bilingual tutors ¹⁰	1/29	14.20 (22.40)	11.30 (15.20)	–2.90	–0.16	ns	+7

(continued)

Appendix A3 Summary of study findings included in the rating for the English language development domain¹ (continued)

Outcome measure	Study sample	Sample size (schools/students)	Authors' findings from the study					
			Mean outcome (standard deviation ²)		WWC calculations			
			Peer Tutoring group	Comparison group	Mean difference ³ (Peer Tutoring – comparison)	Effect size ⁴	Statistical significance ⁵ (at $\alpha = 0.05$)	Improvement index ⁶
IDEA Oral Language Proficiency Test (IPT I)	Grades 3–5 with English-only tutors ¹⁰	1/30	12.20 (19.30)	11.30 (15.20)	0.90	0.05	ns	+2
Average⁸ for English language development (Serrano, 1987)						0.11	ns	+5
Domain average⁸ for language development across all studies						0.56	na	+17

ns = not statistically significant

na = not applicable

1. This appendix reports findings considered for the effectiveness rating and the average improvement indices.
2. The intervention group mean equals the comparison group mean plus the mean difference. The standard deviation across all students in each group shows how dispersed the participants' outcomes are: a smaller standard deviation on a given measure would indicate that participants had more similar outcomes.
3. Positive differences and effect sizes favor the intervention group; negative differences and effect sizes favor the comparison group.
4. For an explanation of the effect size calculation, see [Technical Details of WWC-Conducted Computations](#).
5. Statistical significance is the probability that the difference between groups is a result of chance rather than a real difference between the groups.
6. The improvement index represents the difference between the percentile rank of the average student in the intervention condition versus the percentile rank of the average student in the comparison condition. The improvement index can take on values between –50 and +50, with positive numbers denoting results favorable to the intervention group.
7. The level of statistical significance was reported by the study authors or, where necessary, calculated by the WWC to correct for clustering within classrooms or schools and for multiple comparisons. For an explanation about the clustering correction, see the [WWC Tutorial on Mismatch](#). See [Technical Details of WWC-Conducted Computations](#) for the formulas the WWC used to calculate statistical significance. In the case of Jun-Aust (1985) and Prater & Bermudez (1993), corrections for clustering and multiple comparisons were needed. Corrections for clustering and multiple comparisons did not change reported statistical significance for Jun-Aust (1985). Corrections for multiple comparisons did change Prater & Bermudez (1993) outcomes for total words written from statistically significant to non-significant.
8. The WWC-computed average effect sizes for each study and for the domain across studies are simple averages rounded to two decimal places. The average improvement indices are calculated from the average effect size. Domain averages are calculated as the average of study averages.
9. Intervention and control group pretest to posttest change scores were used in the WWC calculations.
10. WWC viewed the bilingual tutoring and English-only tutoring as two separate outcomes rather than two different interventions because the tutoring intervention by both bilingual and English-only tutors was not substantially different.

Appendix A4 *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* rating for the English language development domain

The WWC rates an intervention's effects in a given outcome domain as positive, potentially positive, mixed, no discernible effects, potentially negative, or negative.¹

For the outcome domain of English language development, the WWC rated *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* as having positive effects. The remaining ratings (potentially positive effects, mixed effects, no discernible effects, potentially negative effects, negative effects) were not considered because *Peer Tutoring and Response Groups* was assigned the highest applicable rating.

Rating received

Positive effects: Strong evidence of a positive effect with no overriding contrary evidence.

- Criterion 1: Two or more studies showing statistically significant *positive* effects, at least one of which met WWC evidence standards for a strong design.

Met. Two of the three studies reviewed in this domain showed statistically significant positive effects. Both studies met WWC evidence standards for a strong design.

AND

- Criterion 2: No studies showing statistically significant or substantively important *negative* effects.

Met. None of the studies reviewed showed statistically significant or substantively important negative effects.

1. For rating purposes, the WWC considers the statistical significance of individual outcomes and the domain-level effect. The WWC also considers the size of the domain-level effect for ratings of potentially positive or potentially negative effects. See the [WWC Intervention Rating Scheme](#) for a complete description.

Appendix A5 Extent of evidence by domain

Outcome domain	Number of studies	Sample size		Extent of evidence ¹
		Schools	Students	
Reading achievement	0	0	0	na
Mathematics achievement	0	0	0	na
English language development	3	5	118	Small

na = not applicable/not studied

1. A rating of “moderate to large” requires at least two studies and two schools across studies in one domain and a total sample size across studies of at least 350 students or 14 classrooms. Otherwise, the rating is “small.”