

25 Questions

for NEW Co-Teachers to Answer Together

Adapted from *How to Co-Teach*
by Elizabeth Potts & Lori Howard



Conversation-Starter Questions

1. How did you come to be a teacher? What drew you to this grade or discipline?
2. What do you think is most important for me to know about you?
3. What are your interests outside of teaching? What do you do in your spare time?
4. How long have you been at this school?
5. Are we comfortable calling each other at home?

Classroom Logistics Questions

6. How will we arrange our classroom to support our instruction? Will desks be arranged in a row, a circle, or groups? Where will supplies and centers be located?
7. What will the flow of our class period look like?
8. What models of co-teaching are we comfortable with right now? Are we comfortable with expanding our horizons and using other models?
9. What roles will we play in the classroom? How do we coordinate our efforts to help the entire class succeed?
10. How will we decide on and establish routines and rules in the classroom?
11. What happens when one of us takes a sick day?

Classroom Management Questions

12. What will our specific policies be for gum, food, and drink in class?
13. What will students be expected to have in front of them (e.g., pencil sharpened, paper out, book out, warm-up activity complete) when the bell rings?
14. How will we manage and monitor behavior?
15. What will consequences be for inappropriate behavior?
16. How will we project that we are both classroom leaders?

Communication Questions

17. What will our regular schedule for detailed planning or discussions be?
18. How is it best to get last-minute information to each other?
19. What technology will we use to communicate? Email? Apps? Telephone calls at home?
20. How will we communicate our policies to the students?
21. How will we interact with parents? As a team? Separately? As requests come in?
22. How will we deal with and communicate issues such as students who are not performing well or who need extra help?
23. How will we avoid students asking one of us a question, then going to the other if they do not like the first answer?
24. On what kinds of decisions should we always consult each other?
25. What kinds of things should we each handle independently?