Ideas for pairing partners

There are two ways that you can pair partners, either randomly or by ability level.

To pair students by ability level, you could do the following. Look at the test scores for the subject for which you intend to use CWPT. Place the students into three categories by their test scores: 100-80%, 79-70%, and 69% and below. At this point, you can either pair the more skilled students with the lower skilled students or pair students with similar ability levels together.

Here are a few examples for pairing partners randomly.

1. Put the students’ names on Popsicle sticks. Each week, pull two names at a time. These two students will be partners for the week.
2. Assign each child a number. Put the numbers into a bingo tumbler. Spin and the number that pops out is partnered with the next number that pops out.
3. Use an alphabetized list of the students. Partner the first two, next two, and so on. Each week, the partners rotate down the list.

***Remember: Keep a list of who has been partners with whom.

The following ideas are for pairing students immediately prior to a CWPT session. The teacher tells the students to pair with the classmate that:

1. has the closest birthday to you.
2. lives the closest to you.
3. when added, their address is closest to yours. Ex. 4807 Main would equal 4+8+0+7=19.
4. has the closest number when counting the letters in their first and middle name. Ex. Betty Bop Floyd = 8 letters.
5. is closest to you in height.
6. sits closest to you.
7. has the same color shirt as you are wearing today.