

☞ Hints and tips for successful Peer Connections

Here are some pointers to help you settle into your role effectively:

- Be visible. Throughout the year socialize with your group. Refraining from only seeing your group at programs/meetings.
- Keep your door open when ever possible.
- Smile! It is the best ice breaker!!
- Always try to seem relaxed and confident (not easy at the start) no matter what the situation. You need to gain the trust of your peers and most importantly their respect. This can be achieved by:
 - Treating them with respect and courtesy – valuing them as an individual
 - Learning their names and using them
 - Listening to them and working with them
 - Showing a sound subject knowledge – “know what you are talking about”
 - Being fair and consistent – don’t treat any individual differently
 - Give them your time – this is always appreciated
- Be aware of your body language. Avoid hovering or lazy postures; these can give the impression of superiority or lack of interest, respectively.
- Ask for group involvement and use praise and encouragement whenever possible. Don’t forget to say thank you!
- Be extremely careful of the language you use. Avoid swearing (however minor) and colloquialisms. You risk segregating certain students and yourself by not carefully watching your language.
- In some cases you may be asked to lead a small group of students in an activity. Always:
 - Make sure you understand your task
 - Explain things clearly
 - Avoid technical jargon unless it is appropriate to the work
 - Keep a check on the time as there is nothing worse than running out of time
- Never discriminate or show favoritism. Be aware of student’s sensitivities, ethnicity, social class, gender, religion.
- If you have any trouble or issues with a student, seek advice from your CL advisor.
- Try to have patience.
- Create programs that encourage and enhance peer connections