Strengthening whole number concepts is critical for developing fractional understanding. One approach to strengthening whole number knowledge is to ensure productive practice opportunities.

Productive practice opportunities are brief, occur daily, and ensure that students practice with materials that are an appropriate instructional match, indicated by highly accurate performance.

One way to facilitate productive practice opportunities in classrooms is to supplement core instruction with peer assisted learning strategies (PALS) by organizing activities in pairs or small groups of students.

The class-wide peer tutoring approach used in GopherMath involved students working in pairs on similar skills. Students were given examples of different strategies to solve basic facts, played a game demonstrating the conceptual basis of the strategy, and then took turns, as coach and player, presenting number facts to one another.