MATH TALK: Building mathematical ideas



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How to use MathTalk to build mathematical ideas and discourse

To encourage mathematical discourse in your class, we can use the math talk poster to help our students. The idea is for students to build on each other's ideas. So as a visual for this classroom activity, we can use building blocks (multilink cubes) and give each child a cube when they add to the class discussions. In the beginning, you want to use this model using the concrete building block to encourage everyone to participate, but eventually, you will not need the building block because students will be rehearsed in this special talk! You can incorporate cooperative group talk to encourage shy or ELL students who may not eagerly share. They can be the group reporter of ideas and questions and still get building blocks to math talk.

FOCUS Framework in build mathematical ideas

Focusing On Conceptual Connection, Unpacking the mathematics, Student learning

Conceptual connections -

- Mapping concept maps
- Connecting multiple representations
- Conceptual understanding
- Connecting to prior knowledge

Unpacking the mathematical ideas-

- Mathematical language and definitions
- Developing rich problems with context
- Develop accurate and meaningful explanation
- Consider instructional materials and tools

Student learning-

- Posing rich problems
- Listening to and responding to students questions,
 misconconceptions and insights
- Eliciting, supporting and extending students' thinking, elaborations and strategies through classroom discourse
- Assess students' mathematics learning and take next steps.