

Reproducible Pattern

Math Talk

Explain

I solved this problem by ...
I know the answer is ... because ...
The first thing I did was ...
I can prove my thinking by ...
I agree/disagree because ...

Evaluate

This reminds me of ...
My strategy is similar/different
because ...
How do you know your answer is right?
What strategy did you choose?
Why?
Why did you choose to
do that?

Extend

I still have a question about ...
What if you tried ...
What key words helped you solve this?
What were you thinking during
this step?
Is there another way you
could solve this?

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Math Talk MINI BULLETIN BOARD RESOURCE GUIDE



Putting It Together

- Laminate the Math Talk Mini Bulletin Board for durability.
- The Math Talk Mini Bulletin Board can be displayed on a wall or bulletin board.
- Use the reproducible pattern [page 4] for a student reference.
- Use pieces of the Math Talk Mini Bulletin Board to create fun curriculum activities.

Title Ideas

Let's Talk!
Talking about
Math
Accountable Talk
Shop Squawk
Polly Wants to
Talk
A Little Bird Told
Me ...

Using the Math Talk Mini Bulletin Board

Display the Math Talk Mini Bulletin Board headers and corresponding examples on a bulletin board for students to easily reference. Place the speech bubbles around the header with the matching colors to display each type of math talk and the related question stems and sentence starters.

Activities

Strategy Strut Try these activities to encourage students to start using math talk to discuss their thinking. In Pair Share, partners solve the same problem independently and then share and explain their solutions to each other. In Step-by-Step, display a problem on the board. Have a student solve the problem while the rest of the class follows along at their desks. The student should pause before each step and describe what everyone should do next and why. The class may ask questions to better understand the student's reasoning. Finally, in All A-Board, several students solve the same problem on the board. Each student should use math talk to explain her method. Have the rest of the class ask questions to clarify, or to compare and contrast the different methods, if desired. In each activity, have students refer to the Math Talk Mini Bulletin Board to help frame their discussions.

Bright Start Distribute copies of the Math Talk bookmark pattern [page 4] to students. Challenge students to highlight the phrases they use during a math talk discussion with a partner or small group. Then, have students glue the bookmark in their math journals and reflect on the math discussion. Students can write about their favorite parts, how the discussion helped them better understand the problem or concept, what they would do differently next time, etc.

Activities

Spinning Solutions Record the math talk phrases your class is working with on a blank spinner. It may be helpful to make one spinner for each set of speech bubbles in the Math Talk Mini Bulletin Board. Make copies and distribute them to students. Allow students to practice math talk during independent activities like homework, problem of the day, or on practice sheets; have students use a sharpened pencil and paper clip to spin the spinner after solving a problem. They should use the phrase to journal about the problem on a sheet of paper or in a

math journal. Spinners can also be sent home for students to practice math talk with their parents.

Continuing Conversations If students are having a hard time creating and continuing math discussions, have them create conversation cards. Give pairs of students a set of index cards. Write one of the phrases from the Math Talk Mini Bulletin Board on the left side of each card. Then, students should write a related follow-up question on the right side. Examples include:

- How do you know your answer is right? / I checked my answer by . . .
- How did you decide on a strategy? / First, I . . . Then, I . . .
- What strategies could you use to solve this problem? / A few strategies I know that would make sense here are . . .

More Math Talk As students discover more question stems and sentence starters during their math conversations, allow them to record each one on copies of the speech bubble pattern [page 3] and add them to the display. Record sentence starters on strips of card stock that are hole-punched at one end. Place them on a book ring to have a handy tool to jumpstart or continue discussions during your math block.

