

NUMBER TALKS / DOT TALKS

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~WHAT IS A NUMBER TALK?

“In a really short span of time, (15 minutes or so [daily]), [students] can change their view of mathematics, develop mental math skills and engage in creative, open mathematics.”

It is a time to have fun, think and talk about numbers, make sense of your ideas and other people’s ideas. Sometimes dot arrangements are used.

It is a time to think of and articulate many ways to “see” amounts, patterns and relationships.

~ WHY ARE NUMBER TALKS IMPORTANT?

“Math problems can be solved in different ways. The power of number talks to transform people’s views of mathematics cannot be overstated. One of the reasons number talks are so important is that they give students and adults, a whole different perspective on mathematics.”

Other goals that can be achieved:

- “Number Talks help develop number sense, which is the most important foundation that students can have and is the basis for all higher-level mathematics.
- “When students fail algebra, it is not because algebra is a really hard subject, it is because they do not have a foundations of number sense.”

~WHY SHOULD TEACHERS DO NUMBER TALKS?

“[Number Talks] help teachers create classrooms in which students feel encouraged to share their thinking and teachers become skilled at listening to their students’ thinking.”

–Ruth Parker and Cathy Humphreys

This leads to rich discourse with the critical mathematical practice standards.

Number Talks facilitate deep conceptual understanding along with procedural fluency!