

Number Talks Cheat Sheet

What does Number Talks look like?

- Students are near each other so they can communicate with each other (central meeting place)
- Students are mentally solving problems
- Students are given thinking time
- Thumbs up show when they are ready
- Teacher is recording students' thinking

Communication

- Having to talk out loud about a problem helps students clarify their own thinking
- Allow students to listen to other's strategies and value other's thinking
- Gives the teacher the opportunity to hear student's thinking

Mental Math

- When you are solving a problem mentally you must rely on what you know and understand about the numbers instead of memorized procedures
- You must be efficient when computing mentally because you can hold a lot of quantities in your head

Thumbs Up

- This is just a signal to let you know that you have given your students enough time to think about the problem
- It will give you a picture of who is able to compute mentally and who is struggling
- It isn't as distracting as a waving hand

Teacher as Recorder

- Allows you to record students' thinking in the correct notation
- Provides a visual to look at and refer back to
- Allows you to keep a record of the problems posed and which students offered specific strategies

Purposeful Problems

- Start with small numbers so the students can learn to focus on the strategies instead of getting lost in the numbers
- Use a number string (a string of problems that are related to and scaffold each other)

Starting Number Talks in your Classroom

- Start with specific problems in mind
- Be prepared to offer a strategy from a previous student
- It is ok to put a student's strategy on the backburner
- Limit your number talks to about 15 minutes
- Ask a question, don't tell!

The teacher asks questions:

- Who would like to share their thinking?
- Who did it another way?
- How many people solved it the same way as Billy?
- Does anyone have any questions for Billy?
- Billy, can you tell us where you got that 5?
- How did you figure that out?
- What was the first thing your eyes saw, or your brain did?
- What are Number Talks and Why are they