

Engaging Your Adolescent Learner in Math

Grades 4-6

What Does Math Class Look Like Today?

If you peeked inside your child's math class, you might notice students:

- Working on their own, in pairs, in small groups, independently, and with teacher direction.
- Engaged in a wide variety of tasks and math practicing skills, solving problems about real-life situations, and applying math concepts.
- Using a variety of tools, such as manipulatives, paper and pencil, chart paper and markers, and digital devices to demonstrate, write and record their math thinking.
- Talking about connections they have made personally or exploring new math concepts and skills.
- Sharing their strategies for solving a problem.

[Why Is Math Different Now?](#)

-- By Dr. Raj Shah

The Importance of Talk

Talk is fundamental to both knowing and learning mathematics. Students need opportunities in small-group and whole-class settings to discuss their thinking, questions, and arguments.

Group work also provides students with a learning environment that encourages more discussion versus a teacher-led lesson only. Students should have regular opportunities to collaboratively work on and talk about problem-solving with their peers.

Number Talks

Number talks provide students with a different perspective on mathematics, and helps them understand critical numerical relationships. Number talks also foster classrooms in which students feel encouraged to share their thinking, and these discussions help to strengthen listening skills in the classroom.

[Number talk video](#)
