



DOING AND TALKING MATH AND SCIENCE

Strengthening Reasoning, Strengthening Language

Strengthening Your Practice

Once you get started, it can be helpful to plan to audiorecord a few lessons now and then. There's so much going on in any lesson that it's hard to keep track of everything! Arranging with a trusted colleague to trade off occasional classroom observations can also give you a fresh perspective about what's happening in your classroom.

To keep yourself moving forward, it's good to plan regular periods for reflection on your progress. Here are some reflection questions that might be useful. You can use these by yourself, or to stimulate discussion with a small group of colleagues.

Teacher Weekly Reflection Questions

1. Who's doing most of the talking in my classroom—me or my students?
2. What are the most frequent types of interactions I set up and direct in my classroom—teacher to individual student, teacher to small group, student to student?
3. Am I giving equal time and attention to everyone's ideas? Examples: ELs and English-fluent? Boys and girls? Students easy to follow and hard to follow?
4. How long am I waiting quietly both before and after a student answers?
5. What were a few interesting or surprising student ideas I heard this week?
6. Were there ideas I didn't know how to handle? Did I make a note to go back to those?
7. Have I heard the ELs in my class initiate ideas and exchanges?
8. Do I see/hear evidence that students are listening to one another? Helping one another?
9. Are my small group assignments working? Do I need to make any changes?
10. What 1-2 things do I want to work more on next week?