Making group smartness a goal and a reality in your math classroom

- On an index card
 Write your name (for the raffle!)
 - Also write how you are
 - smart in math and
 - group smart

Making group smartness a goal and a reality in your math classroom

Sandra Crespo

crespo@msu.edu Michigan State University

Marcy Wood

mbwood@email.arizona.edu University of Arizona

Session Overview

- Introductions
- Group Smartness?
- Task1: No one is an island
- Debrief 1
- Task 2: Number ordering
- Debrief 2
- Take Away + Book Raffle!

Smarter Together!

Collaboration and Equity in the Elementary Math Classroom





-FLEN

Our Book

Smarter Together! Collaboration and Equity in the Elementary Classroom, Reston, Va: NCTM.



Smarter Together

- What does it Mean to be Smart in Math?
- Teaching Norms and Roles...
- Addressing Status Issues ...
- Selecting and Designing Groupworthy Tasks
- Three Teachers' Stories
- Resources for Groupworthy Tasks
- Adapting Textbook Problems

Group Work

Research on group work: positive relationship between student interaction in small groups and average learning gains.



Cohen & Lotan, 1997





Mind-Sets and Equitable Education •

Students perform better in school when they and their teachers believe that intelligence is not fixed, but can be developed.

Teaching students that intelligence can be "grown" is especially powerful for students who belong to typically stereotyped groups.

Growth mind-sets focus on effort and motivate students to overcome challenging work.

Carol Dweck (2010) in Principal Leadership journal







Let's Try a Task No One is an Island Roles Read task card Materials on table

As you work on this task ...

 Focus on the group participation and how this task encourages a group growth mindset.

To be group smart in this task your group will need to:

- Use words to describe pictures
- Notice details and attributes
- Communicate visual reasoning
- Make comparisons and notice differences
- Be precise
- Devise a plan
- Listen carefully
- Learn from making mistakes
- Ask questions
- Persevere by generating alternative

Together your group has the abilities to solve this task.



Complex Instruction (CI)



Let's Try another Task Ordering Numbers

- Roles
- Read task card
- Materials on table

To be group smart in this task your group will need to:

- Pick a common representation
- Asking questions
- Listen carefully to everyone
- Think about different strategies
- Build on each other's ideas
- Come to consensus
- Use consensus to influence thinking
- Think flexibly about numbers (think about fractions, decimals, and percents)
- Encourage each other
- Ask why (justify answers)



Being group smart in math... Is about DEVELOPING EXPERTISE -- There is no math gene -- 10,000 hours to expert

To help more students succeed at math...

Need to change perceptions of smartness

- Broaden what it means to be smart in school
- Value students' strengths!
 Everyone is smart, has something to contribute, and has something to learn from others.

Group Growth Mindset

Messages That Promote a Growth Mind-Set

- We believe in your potential and are committed to helping everyone get smarter.
- We value (and praise) taking on challenges, exerting effort, and surmounting obstacles more than we value (and praise) "natural" talent and easy success.
- Working hard to learn new things makes you smarter it makes your brain grow new connections.
- School is not a place that judges you. It is a place where people help your brain grow new connections.

Norms for Group Smart

-Yet
- Group questions only
- No one is done until everyone understands
- No talking outside our group
- No one takes over and everyone contributes
- Giving up will not make us smarter!
- What more can we learn here?

Conclusion

- Individualistic growth mindset is not enough
- Smart is never Individual, it is distributed and collaborative
- Developing group growth mindset requires student and teacher persistence
- Embracing RISK, EFFORT, and Rethinking SUCCESS
- Complex Instruction gives us tools for developing group growth mindset
- No one is as smart as all of us together.

Please stay in touch!

Sandra Crespo

crespo@msu.edu Michigan State University

Marcy Wood

mbwood@email.arizona.edu University of Arizona

Complex Instruction Math webpage CIMath.org CImath@CIMath.org

Raffle!

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Featherstone, Crespo, Jilk, Oslund, Parks, & Wood (2011).

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