

## NUMBER TALKS:

Where the *learners* do the talking.



Compose & Decompose  
Numbers ...

And BUILD NUMBER SENSE

One NUMBER at a time!

Middletown Township Elementary Schools

First Grade Newsletter Third Quarter 2016

# Math Empowers

## MOTIVATION + DELIBERATE PRACTICE = MASTERY

If you haven't seen Dan Meyer's [TED TALK](#) about math education today, he can inspire you for a year of intentional teaching in ten minutes! It is possibly even more provoking as a parent. Dan Meyer simply and humorously explains why as teachers we must, "Ask the shortest question you can" and "Let students build the problem." Children are not the only ones who learn more when they are motivated. Most adults will admit we could be more patient problem solvers. Let's challenge our little first grade friends to learn more patience with mathematics by motivating them with the [3 Act Cookie Monster problem!](#) This BEST OF THE BEST activity from Graham Fletcher ([gfletchy.com](#)) uses counters for mathematical modeling and meets standards 1.NBT.1, 1.NBT.4

**"I haven't FAILED. I've just found 10,000 ways that WON'T WORK"**  
-THOMAS EDISON

## Who is Doing the Talking?

One of the BEST side effects of our new Dreambox program, is a more conducive environment for small group math talk. Whether we are posing a problem for our first graders to contemplate or we are assessing how confidently they can compose or decompose numbers, working one-on-one and in small groups provides our little ones:

MORE time to **talk** about their math learning.

MORE time to **show true** understanding.

MORE time to **expose** their **misconceptions**.

MORE time to **build** new understanding.

If you have learned better ways of utilizing Dreambox in your classroom, please share your successes!

## If Not NOW, When?

Many of us have tried BETTER ways of facilitating number learning, yet failed. **Failure is simply learning a way that does not work.** Let's consider why. Sometimes math centers that challenge many of our students, are irrelevant for more accomplished first graders. And often activities little ones can handle independently, are not rigorous enough. Sometimes the BEST activities for first graders simply don't provide us with enough valid information if we are not right there at the time. Differentiation is hard. Yet

today, Dreambox provides us with targeted math concept development AND improves our focused time with small groups of students. So how do you Dreambox?

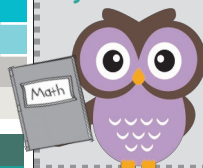


## Teacher Tip

**"I ADMIT IT. I AM A HOARDER. I HOARD GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND CENTERS LIKE SOME WOMEN ACCUMULATE SHOES"**

The problem is... when I hoard digital stuff, I often lose track of it. I forget what I loved in the past, or can not find the SMART boards as quickly as I want. **So I started putting a sticky note in my TE for every SMART board, iPad app, web site or Kahoot game I use.** Now I have a backup to my lesson plans next year when I get to the same topic! So **KEEP THE GOOD STUFF COMING! I'M READY"**

- Anonymous



SPOTLIGHT  
on the *GO MATH!*  
RESOURCE SHEET

Have you been reviewing the shared [GO Math! First Grade Resource Sheet](#) to see what has been added? Not only are there are engaging pictures and videos to inspire your learners to solve problems, there are also links to BEST of the BEST interactive games for building understanding and practicing new skills ... *for example:*

- \* [GIVE A DOG A BONE HUNDREDS CHART GAME](#)
- \* [BATTLESHIP NUMBER LINE](#)