

MATH TALKS

Using math talks in the classroom is a great way for students to begin to understand math in a more *conceptual* way! It can be easy to put up a math question and think you are hosting a math talk but remember... the most important part is having your students **meaningfully TALK** about the concepts. A math talk is something that should take place every day in your classroom for about 3-5 minutes per day!

I have 4 phrases that I use in my K-2 classroom all the time to foster meaningful math conversations. The four phrases I love to use are:

- Tell me more...
- What did ____ say?
- Do you agree/disagree? Why?
- Could you solve this a different way?

You can see more about each phrase and WHY they're important in my video below:



This is currently part of a growing bundle, and the math talks already included are:

- Subitizing
- Comparing Numbers
- Which doesn't belong?
 - Fill the grid
- Picture It Prompts
 - Making 10s
 - Decomposition

There are 24 of each different type of math talk (except picture it!) and the skills progress from easier to more difficult. There is also an editable slide at the end of each skill so you can type in your own problems as needed for more practice.

DECOMPOSITION:

Decomposition: decomposition is to break down a number into different parts. Our numbers can be broken down in many ways and this skill helps students think flexibly about numbers which will help them solve computation problems as they work on more difficult skills.

Students will walk through a series of progressively more difficult tasks to decompose numbers and explain how they got the answers. When students decompose, they usually do so to make 10 or doubles facts. It begins with number bonds that can be complete in different ways. Then we move to balancing numbers and lastly, move to solving addition problems using decomposition to solve.

The image displays three educational cards related to number decomposition:

- Left Card:** A blue header with a girl's face and the text "COMPI". Below the header is a large circle containing the number 15, with a smaller empty circle to its right.
- Middle Card:** A purple header with a girl's face and the text "COMPLETE IT!". Below the header is a balance scale. The left pan contains three yellow circles with the numbers 6, 2, and 3. The right pan contains one yellow circle with the number 9. A purple triangle is positioned below the scale's fulcrum.
- Right Card:** A teal header with a boy's face and the text "HOW CAN YOU SOLVE?". Below the header are two addition problems:
$$5 + 9 + 2$$
$$8 + 4 + 5$$