



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Observing Feedback in a Math Classroom

Don Pedro Elementary School, California

Topic: Encouraging Girls in Math and Science

Practice: Prescriptive Feedback

A sixth-grade math teacher at Don Pedro Elementary School is incorporating multiple elements of prescriptive, informational feedback in her class. To facilitate this instructional strategy, she uses classroom organization and checking for understanding techniques. This checklist was used to observe one double-period math lesson.

Strategies incorporated in Ms. Anderson's Math Classrooms, Don Pedro, CA

Classroom Organization

- Students work individually
- Students work with a partner
- Students work in small groups
- Whole classroom discussion

Appropriate Feedback Components

- Encourages students to show all their steps of thinking
- Uses warm and positive tone
- Uses “think aloud” to model thought processes
- Introduces multiple strategies to solve the same problem
- Uses appropriate pacing to students’ level of understanding
- Praises effort
- Praises process
- Praises students for taking on challenges (e.g., going to the Smart Board for the first time)
- Encourages a classroom debate as a process for figuring out an answer
- Provides opportunity for transfer of control to student
- Uses appropriate audio, visual, technology equipment to demonstrate steps in problem solving
- Acknowledges frustration and difficulty
- Points out that mistakes are a learning opportunity
- Models possible mistakes and what students can learn from them
- Encourages cooperation and support
- Encourages positive peer feedback
- Provides feedback to individual students
- Provides feedback to work groups
- Provides feedback to the classroom as a whole

Checking for Understanding

- Students show answers on their whiteboards
- Students show answers using sign language
- Students share their answers as part of classroom discussion
- Students show how they solve a problem using the Smart Board
- Students show how they solve a problem using the classroom white board
- Students show level of confidence raising their fingers (10 fingers = high confidence)
- Students hand in their classroom work