

CES Digital Backpack

What Is Math Talk?

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More / less, bigger / smaller, over / under, inside / outside, top / bottom, taller / shorter, higher / lower, on top of / next to, behind / in front of, hot / cold, are all words that we use on a daily basis. What do they all have in common? They are all Math vocabulary words that we use when describing something to another person. We are usually comparing two things, but we might be comparing a whole group of things.

Vocabulary is only one part of Math Talk with your child. Asking questions and always digging deeper is another. Mathematical Practice Standard #3 is another important part of Mathematics. It states: "Construct Viable Arguments & Critique the Reasoning of Others." While looking at problems and solutions it is always important to be able to explain your strategies with words. This is a way that your child will take ownership for the way they are solving their problems. Thought provoking questions such as: How did you know?, What did you do?, Why did you do that?, Explain that to me., and Show me what you did., are all examples of the deeper understanding that go with solving a problem. Pretending to be a student and having your child teach you a strategy is another way for them to show you that they have that deeper understanding. Giving them "think time," or a little bit of "struggle time," to persevere will also help to build their mathematical confidence. Sometimes all we need is a little more time and encouragement to reach the end solution.



