i-Ready Classroom Mathematics

For Families

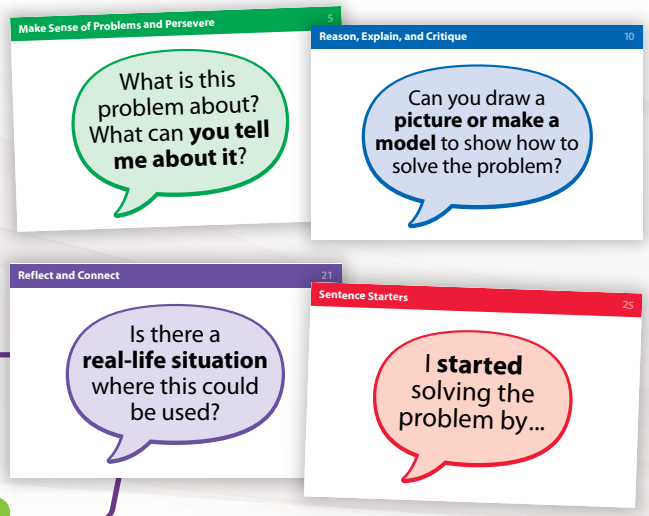
Grades K–8

Math Discourse Cards

What Is Math Discourse?

Math discourse simply means talking about math. When students talk about math, they process ideas more critically, develop perseverance, and retain what they learn.

Try using these Discourse Cards when your student is working on math to help get the conversation going!



Tips and Guidance for Using the Math Discourse Cards

- ✓ **Focus most on the mathematical thinking and strategies your student uses**, not just on getting the correct answer.
- ✓ **Help your student by asking curious questions** so they can think through a solution strategy and fix their own mistakes.
- ✓ **Use language that builds a growth mindset.** Praise effort and determination rather than correct answers or being smart. Some examples of what you can say:
  - *"That was a great explanation."*
  - *"I can see you've worked hard on this problem."*
  - *"I'm really proud that you kept going even when you got stuck."*
  - *"The strategy you used was really clever because . . ."*
- ✓ **Ask your student to explain their thinking.** Help your student think through their ideas more fully so you can better understand their thought process by asking them to explain their thinking—especially if you are using a card that asks a yes or no question.
- ✓ **Be patient with yourself and your student, and don't give up.** It may take several tries to really get the conversation going.
- ✓ **Know when your student has had enough.** Frequent, but brief sessions may be better than longer ones depending on your student's age and their level of attention.
- ✓ **Always keep it fun and positive.** If your student's interest wanes or they get frustrated, set aside the Discourse Cards and try again another time.

Check out these Discourse Activities to help you get your student talking about math:

Math Discourse Activities for Families: Grades K–5 | Grades 6–8

Math Discourse Cards

Use the **green cards** to help your student make sense of a problem and persevere in solving it.

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere 1

Do you **agree** with the strategy, answer, or explanation? Do you disagree?

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere 2

Which words in the problem are **most important**? Why?

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere 3

How would you **explain your strategy** to others?

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere 4

How would you explain how to solve this problem to someone who missed class today?

Math Discourse Cards

Use the **green cards** to help your student make sense of a problem and persevere in solving it.

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere 5

What is this problem about? What can **you tell me about it**?

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere 6

Is there **another way** to draw, explain, or say that?

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere 7

What other ideas have you tried?

Make Sense of Problems and Persevere 8

Could you **explain** what the problem is asking?

Math Discourse Cards

Use the **blue cards** to help your student explain and/or reason through their thinking.

Reason, Explain, and Critique 9	Reason, Explain, and Critique 10
Is this a **reasonable answer**? Why or why not?	Can you draw a **picture or make a model** to show how to solve the problem?
Reason, Explain, and Critique 11	**Reason, Explain, and Critique 12**
How did you begin to think about this problem?	How did you **organize** your information? Your thinking?

Math Discourse Cards

Use the **blue cards** to help your student explain and/or reason through their thinking.

Reason, Explain, and Critique 13	Reason, Explain, and Critique 14
How would you **check your steps** or your answer?	What **did not work**?
Reason, Explain, and Critique 15	**Reason, Explain, and Critique 16**
How would your solution look if you used **another model**?	Is there **another way to solve** the problem?

Math Discourse Cards

Use the **purple cards** to help your student reflect on what they did and make connections to other things they have learned.

Reflect and Connect 17	Reflect and Connect 18
Are there **any advantages** to using one strategy over another?	Did you **use any tools** to solve this problem? If so, describe them.
Reflect and Connect 19	**Reflect and Connect 20**
Do you see any **patterns**?	How is this problem **like one we solved** before? How is it different?

Math Discourse Cards

Use the **purple cards** to help your student reflect on what they did and make connections to other things they have learned.

Reflect and Connect 21

Is there a **real-life situation** where this could be used?

Reflect and Connect 22

What are **some things you learned**?

Reflect and Connect 23

What **ideas** did you use to solve this problem?

Reflect and Connect 24

What other **questions** do you have about this topic?

Math Discourse Cards

Use the **red cards** to help your student respond to questions.

Sentence Starters 25

I **started** solving the problem by...

Sentence Starters 26

The strategy that **makes the most sense** to me is...

Sentence Starters 27

A place where **I got stuck** was...

Sentence Starters 28

I need help understanding...

Math Discourse Cards

Use the **red cards** to help your student respond to questions.

Sentence Starters 29

Something new that **I learned** today was...

Sentence Starters 30

I noticed **a connection** between...

Sentence Starters 31

This is **similar** to...

Sentence Starters 32

Something that is **important** to remember is...