

The 5 Principles of Extraordinary Math Teaching



1. Start with a Question

- Allows for real thinking
- Questioning is authentic and compelling for learning
- Satisfaction is found when an answer is reached



2. Students Need Time to Struggle

- Teaches perseverance
- Allows for observations/questions
- Classroom comes alive with engagement
- Deepens curiosity and their powers of observation
- Develops risk-taking ability



3. You are NOT the Answer Key

- "I don't know, let's find out!" = math becomes an adventure
- Not knowing is not a failure, it is the first step to understanding
- Creates space for discussion/debate



4. Say 'Yes' to your Students' Ideas

- Allow ideas to be accepted, studied, and disproven to maintain respect
- Show them WHY it cannot be true
- Teaches students to be courageous



5. Play!

- Instead of focusing on math rules, you should play and explore with math
- Allows for math thinking to flourish

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Finkel, D. [TedXTalks]. (2016, Feb. 17). *5 Principles of Extraordinary Math Teaching* [Video]. YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytVneQUA5-c>