Observation

- 30 students + 1 teacher in a classroom
- 60 minute class period

If teacher talks 50%, that leaves 30 minutes!

Do the math!

Each student might get 1 minute!
Why is “talk time” important?

A person “learns” when they have a voice:

- mental
- verbal
- written
Flashback: 1981
Dortmund
West Germany
Lee (3), Kai (4), Niko (5)
Language is a communication tool.
Language of First Encounter

The language used to communicate when you first meet someone is the language you will naturally use with them.
The Berlitz Method

- all conversation in “target language”
- based on listening and speaking
- not based on rote memorization
- practical vocabulary
- real-life context

importance of creating an environment
Flashback: 1984
Barcelona, Spain
Language is a communication tool.
Mathematics is a language.

Communication situations:

- teacher -> students (class)
- teacher -> student
- student -> teacher
- student -> student
- student -> students (class)
Observation

- 30 students + 1 teacher in a classroom
- teacher uses “think-pair-share”
- teacher calls on students
- teacher repeats so all can hear to model better math vocabulary

How much time is lost each time the teacher repeats?
Creating an environment: students responding, **no** repeating by the teacher
Creating an environment: students talking “math” with each other
Scaffolding the need to communicate

- What did you hear? What did you see?
- How do you know?
- How does that make sense?
- Can you tell me more?
- I am not sure I understand. How does that work?
- Why did you use “(insert a word)”? - can you tell me what it means?
Creating an environment: students leading the discussion
Tips to help “unsilence”

- minimize time teacher talks
- do not repeat students’ responses
- maximize teacher’s listening role
- use “Scenarios” to create environments
- scaffold student talk
- value students’ stories
- invite students to tell more
Value Student Thinking

If problem-solving thoughts are valued at an early age, think where students will be on their problem-solving journey when they reach high school and beyond!

Do your part to unsilence students’ voices!
My Men:
Richard Lee (33)
Niko (35)