

Fishbowl

Teacher-Student partnership: Model "Talking with a partner"

Teacher sits across from a student (partner) with the remainder of the class surrounding them. Students observe and listen to the teacher and "partner" model how to have a discussion in partner work. It is helpful to provide observing students with a focus question(s), i.e. "What does my partner do that demonstrates she is listening to me?", "What do we do that shows we are respectful of each other's ideas.", "What do you notice our bodies doing while we are working together?", "What do we do to demonstrate that we have understood what our partner said?"

Observations students might make:

- Ask questions for clarification
- Help me understand why you did this...
- What does active listening look like (eye contact, body language, behaviors,...)
- Acknowledge partner's idea and add your own.
- Restate partner's idea in your own words. "Is this what you are saying?"
- Ask questions about the problem. (What patterns do you notice?)
- Identify your partner's strategy
- Share your strategy and compare the two.
- Ask your partner how they found an answer
- Explain why you think your answer is accurate
- Ask your partner if they can explain your thinking
- Staying on task by keeping track of the time and refocusing on the problem when the discussion has gone astray.

Suggestion: Generate a poster or chart with student listing the expectations for accountable talk. How should students listen to each other, ask questions, disagree respectfully, focus on the task or problem, manage time, ...?