

Highlighting Competence in Mathematics Classrooms

Task Design:

- Supporting students in learning mathematics (even the basics) through high cognitive demand tasks
- Positioning students' everyday lives as the source for mathematics
- Using mathematics to explore social issues

Building on Student ideas:

- Expecting student understanding
- Normalizing student difficulties
- Identifying valid mathematics in students' ideas
- Finding value in students' incorrect answers
- Drawing on students' multilingual resources

Affirming Students' Mathematics Ability:

- Clearly noting students' competence
- Building collective responsibility for the mathematics
- Explicitly countering negative frames of student ability in math

Behavior:

- Making expectations for behavior and engagement clear
- Noting model behavior and redirecting off-task behavior
- Handling behavioral issues privately to avoid escalating interactions
- First approaching students with care