

What does a teacher need to know about creating an environment in a guided math classroom that supports numeracy and mathematical learning?

This learning guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and learning communities or as a self-paced study to explore guided math.



This learning guide is intended to be used after viewing the video clip:
[Guided Math Video 2](#)

Big Idea: “Environments rich in mathematical opportunities are essential if we want our children to develop a thorough understanding of mathematics.”

Laney Sammons. *Guided Math: A Framework for Mathematics Instruction*

Key understandings:

- An essential component in a guided math framework is a classroom environment of numeracy. It should be obvious upon entering the room that mathematics is being taught and numeracy valued.
- If we expect deep thinking to occur, students need to be provided with flexible and engaging learning environments. This enables students to inquire, wonder and openly share understandings in an inclusive, welcoming and risk free setting.
- As teachers and students learn, it is essential that the environment be co-constructed to reflect the value of numeracy and optimize every student’s potential and capacity to learn.
- “A classroom that is functioning successfully as a third teacher will be responsive to the children’s interests, provide opportunities for children to make their thinking visible and then foster further learning and engagement.” (Reference 1, p. 67)

Questions for discussion:

- In what ways, does your current classroom support mathematical learning? What evidence of mathematical learning is visually displayed?
- Imagine the ideal math learning environment for today’s learner. What would it look like? What do you value as being important to student learning?
- How might you co-construct your environment with your students?

For more information:

- Fraser, S. (2012). *Authentic childhood*. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education
- Newton, Dr. Nikki. 2016. *Math Workshop in Action: Strategies for Grades K-5*, New York, NY. Routledge
- Sammons, Laney. 2010. *Guided Math: A Framework for Mathematics Instruction*. Huntington Beach, CA: Shell Education

Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed by the Edmonton Catholic Schools and funded through a grant from the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. It is provided for free in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.



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