

Collaboration with Dry Erase Boards

In the realm of education and instruction, collaboration is a hot topic. The mathematics classroom thrives on collaboration among students, fostering deeper thinking. Use of dry erase boards can enhance problem solving, boost self-confidence, and assist in the practice of mathematics. This Best Practice offers advantages to the teacher and student.

For the teacher, the benefits of using dry erase boards to foster collaboration are easily observed. Teachers can utilize various techniques with these materials to elicit more productive responses. The teacher can move about the room, listening to dialogue and observing collaboration in action. Depending on the method used, once students have responses, the teacher can instruct students to go share their results with another student to add an additional layer of collaboration. Teachers may choose to have students hold up their boards with their response and can easily determine where intervention or extension are needed. Teachers may also choose to check a few answers then have students check the remaining answers. This provides yet another opportunity for collaboration.

For the student, the benefits of using dry erase materials are numerous. Students enjoy using hands-on materials. Their focus tends to change when they have the opportunity to move around and collaborate with their peers. Regardless of the activity used with dry erase boards, students can be observed sharing their ideas with each other and are eager to do more.

The Best Practice of using dry erase materials to foster collaboration can be very successful in any classroom. Teachers will find success in offering students opportunities for collaboration. The more often students have opportunities to work with their peers, either one on one or in a small group, the more likely they are to gain confidence in their abilities to discuss and explain their thought processes.

Activities to use with Dry Erase Boards

π Whole group:

- Each student has dry erase materials
- Solve problems
- Hold board up with solution to show that you are finished
- Teacher checks work
- If correct, they may erase; if incorrect, they need to continue working and check again

π Partners:

- Each student has dry erase materials
- Partners work together to solve problems
- Hold boards up with solution to show that you and your partner are finished
- Teacher checks work
- If correct, they may erase; if incorrect, they need to continue working and check again

π Small groups:

- Each student has dry erase materials
- Groups work together to solve problems
- Hold boards up to show your group is finished
- Teacher checks work
- If correct, they may erase; if incorrect, they need to continue working and check again

π Additional:

- Small group instruction with teacher
- Using any of the above groupings, the teacher may opt to have students form pairs or larger groups to share their answers
- Using the small group and partner groupings, the teacher may opt to check one answer then instruct that student to check their small group/partner's work
- Class discussion can always occur at any point in the activity

Types of Dry Erase Materials

- π White boards
- π Graph boards
- π Laminated cardstock
- π Laminated graph paper on cardstock
- π Clear communicator folder with paper
- π Top of student desk
- π Educreations app (iPad)
- π ShowMe app (iPad)
- π Pieces of cut carpet (erasers)
- π Dry erase markers