

Number Talk Images Implementation Guide

Number Talk Images is a routine that builds number sense and emphasizes the multiple ways in which we can “see” numbers.

Before doing the routine, teachers select an image that is mathematical in nature. This could be using specific items that will feel relevant to your students or could be using values that you want to explore with your students.

During the routine, students should have a minute of quiet thinking time to examine an image and be asked to share what they see. Possible prompts include (but are not limited to), asking what students notice, wonder or how they saw the total number of objects. It is important to provide students time and space to explain their thinking. From there, they can turn and talk to their partner to share their ideas and listen to the ideas of their partner. Finally a whole group discussion is held to share a selection of the ideas from the larger group.

As students are explaining, the teacher will record student ideas using different color markers. It could be helpful to keep track of strategies that multiple students had to look for commonalities in thinking.

Because Number Talk Images is a routine, students will have multiple opportunities to look for mathematical ideas within images. Over time, students will become more creative in their noticing and the ways in which they think about decomposing the quantities.

The best part about the number talk images is the way they create room for all students to engage with mathematical thinking, which in turn creates confidence and allows each student to see themselves as a mathematician

