

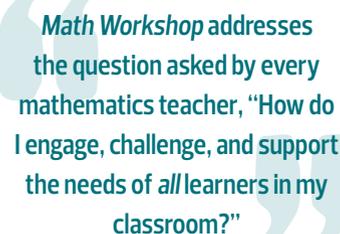
Foreword

Have you ever met someone and believed you were destined to connect? When I first met Jennifer Lempp, I knew we were kindred math spirits with intertwining pedagogical beliefs about what it means to teach and learn mathematics with understanding. Her vision and passion for student learning through math workshop inspired me, and I knew her expertise with elementary and middle school classrooms in this critical area would be a gift for us all.

Math Workshop addresses the question asked by every mathematics teacher, “How do I engage, challenge, and support the needs of *all* learners in my classroom?” Jennifer successfully tackles this difficult question through the math workshop model, a philosophy that incorporates accessible tasks, open-ended problem solving, individual and small-group guided instruction, student choice, and content immersed in the big ideas in mathematics. This comprehensive resource masterfully unlocks the essential characteristics of math workshop with a resonating theme of students as “doers” of mathematics and teachers as facilitators.

Whether you are new to math workshop or looking for a more effective way to implement this learning platform, *Math Workshop* provides a step-by-step approach to building a classroom environment intentionally organized to support *all* students in developing and understanding mathematics. The “who, what, when, where, and why” of math workshop are expertly addressed in a clear, easy-to-follow layout. From suggestions for the physical arrangement of your classroom to choosing rich tasks, every detail is discussed to support you in a seamless implementation of the math workshop model.

Lempp’s personal experiences using math workshop are invaluable to the reader. She knows the essential foundations needed to establish this structure as a cornerstone of the mathematics classroom. The resource guides us through the characteristics of math workshop using a perfect balance of research and personal application to develop seven core tenets: students as doers of mathematics, the role of student choice, classroom discourse, student collaboration, productive struggle through rich tasks, the teacher as a facilitator, and the importance of working with individual and/or small groups of students. Throughout the resource, Lempp encourages readers to “go slow



Math Workshop addresses the question asked by every mathematics teacher, “How do I engage, challenge, and support the needs of *all* learners in my classroom?”

to go fast.” She urges us to take time to test ideas, try different math workshop structures, and revisit ideas until our students and we are comfortable.

Lempp expertly leads us through her masterpiece, making sure we are prepared to take steps in our own classrooms. “Twenty Days to a Classroom Culture That Works” (Chapter 2) targets foundational ideas of math workshop and offers practical suggestions for classroom arrangements to provide physical space for guided math groups, learning stations, and whole-group discussions. Twenty minilessons (plenty for the first month of school) are also included to establish norms for a safe mathematics learning community and to support students in understanding routines and procedures used during math workshop.

Classroom videos are incorporated throughout this resource to provide invaluable support in building our understanding of math workshop as well as offering a vehicle for formative assessment through the lenses of the featured classrooms. Seeing math workshop in action offers us in-the-moment opportunities to observe minilessons, small-group discussions and tasks, learning stations, whole-group processing, and the many flexible structures used in math workshop.

Math Workshop embraces a teaching and learning philosophy that works for all students, all classrooms, all teachers, and all curricula. The flexibility in its structure supports both teachers and students and keeps the mathematics classroom engaging, fresh, and purposeful. If you are interested in building mathematicians and immersing students in “just-right” mathematics that moves beyond a “one-size-fits-all” approach, then you have found the right resource. *Math Workshop* is your game changer!

—Sherry Parrish, author of *Number Talks: Whole Number Computation* and coauthor of *Number Talks: Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages*