

Chapter 4 Application Guide

Use the application guide to connect these ideas and tools to your classroom practices.

Chapter 4 Topics	Connect to Your Classroom
Assessing with observations	Regularly conduct informal observations to gain insights into students' skills, abilities, and strategies for solving problems. Make formal observations at a teacher-led workstation. Use an observation chart to track students' thinking and progress on specific concepts.
Assessing with math journals	Have students use journals as recording sheets for math workstation activities. After completing the day's workstations, students stack journals on your desk open to the pages on which they wrote to allow you to quickly evaluate them.
Assessing with class discussions	Try number talks, Notice and Wonder, and Which One Doesn't Belong to help students with a range of mathematical experiences and abilities contribute to class discussions and build shared understanding. Use talk moves to improve discussions, ask open questions, solicit a variety of responses, and create a risk-free environment. Then use what you glean about students' understanding to plan future instruction.
Assessing with portfolios	Organize a system for students to manage a working portfolio and an assessment portfolio. Use the three-step plan (collect, select and reflect, and project) to keep the process moving. Make sure your math activities are fitting for a portfolio by prioritizing problem solving, communication, and representations of student thinking rather than worksheets or closed question-type problems.
Assessing with performance tasks	Include a group portion (to encourage communication and collaboration) and an individual portion (to ensure accountability). Incorporate students' home cultures into performance tasks when possible.
Assessing fluency	Try observations, interviews, journaling, and quizzes that ask students to describe how they knew an answer.