

## **MAKING STUDENTS' THINKING VISIBLE** **[22 Verbal Behaviors that Let Kids Get Smart]**

**Teacher starts by asking a good open-ended question that gets them thinking. Then...**

1. asks students to explain the thinking behind their answers whether they're right or wrong.
2. asks students if they agree or disagree with a student answer.
3. asks students to comment or add on to a student's response or idea.
4. creates and then facilitates dialog between students about their ideas
5. asks follow-up questions that are similar to ones just discussed to see if student really understands
6. asks students to make connections to something another student said or something else they know
7. credits meaning to student comments, even obscure ones, and probes for the student's thinking. ...does the same with incorrect answers.
8. uses wait-time...allows students to struggle and dwells with the student's thinking, sticking with them
9. comes back to a student you moved away from to now check and clarify what their thinking is, given the comments of other students
10. asks questions to surface discrepancies between what student says and the information in front of them "How can that be/What's going on there?"

### **Students:**

11. do the majority of the talking
12. are expected to explain their thinking
13. show they are listening to one another
14. willingly to openly admit confusion or not knowing
15. challenge each other's thinking non-judgmentally
16. take initiative to explain another student's thinking, including how they might have made an error
17. students who get it quickly take responsibility for helping those who don't

### **Other teacher observables**

18. provides a clear visual display of the idea
19. gives encouragement
20. praises good thinking
21. validates students who acknowledge confusion
22. expresses confidence in kids explicitly

OVER



## THE FOUR INTENTIONS BEHIND TEACHER BEHAVIOR IN A CLASS THAT LET KIDS GET SMART

1. **Curiosity**—to know what and how this individual student is thinking about the content
2. **Student Talk and Interaction**—to cause dialog between and listening among students
3. **Climate**—to provide encouragement, acknowledgement and safety for students to risk speaking
4. **Clarity**—to make an idea more clear and accessible through models, visuals, and sequence of questions

