

Example of number talks in practice 1:
Which one doesn't belong? with 4 to 5-year-olds



Image: wodb.ca/Andrew Gael

The children settled down for the weekly number talks session in their Reception class. They eagerly awaited today's image. Marie put today's image of five dice on the large screen and waited as the children's eyes darted around, observing their facial expressions and hand gestures. The children know to remain quiet to begin with to allow everyone a proper look and time to think about what they notice and how they would say this. When Marie decided everyone was ready, she asked children to share their thinking and asked other children if they agreed and could see what the other child saw:

Marie: Can anyone else show me a dice that does not belong and tell me why?

Jaiden: (pointing to the dice with a 5 numeral) This one has a number and the other ones have spots.

Marie: That is a really good reason. Well done! This dice shows a number using the numeral 5. All of the other dice use dot patterns to show their numbers. Is there another dice that doesn't belong and do you have a good reason why?

Mia: (pointing to the small dice) This is different because of size.

Marie: Can you describe why it is different because of its size?

Mia: It is only little.

Marie: And what about the other dice?

Mia: The other ones are bigger.