

Handout: Being Explicit About Mathematical Practices

Why be explicit about mathematical practices?

- Practices are basic skills of mathematics—they matter for success in math
- Students may not be attending to the practices even when they are in use
- Using a practice skillfully and effectively involves:
 - Understanding why it matters
 - Knowing how it works
 - Becoming skillful with its use in different situations

How can teachers make mathematical practices explicit?

- Integrating practices with work on mathematical topics
- Modeling use of practices
- Scaffolding students' use of practices
- Establishing and maintaining an environment that supports engagement in mathematical practice
- Providing and capitalizing on tasks that create opportunities for developing skill with mathematical practice