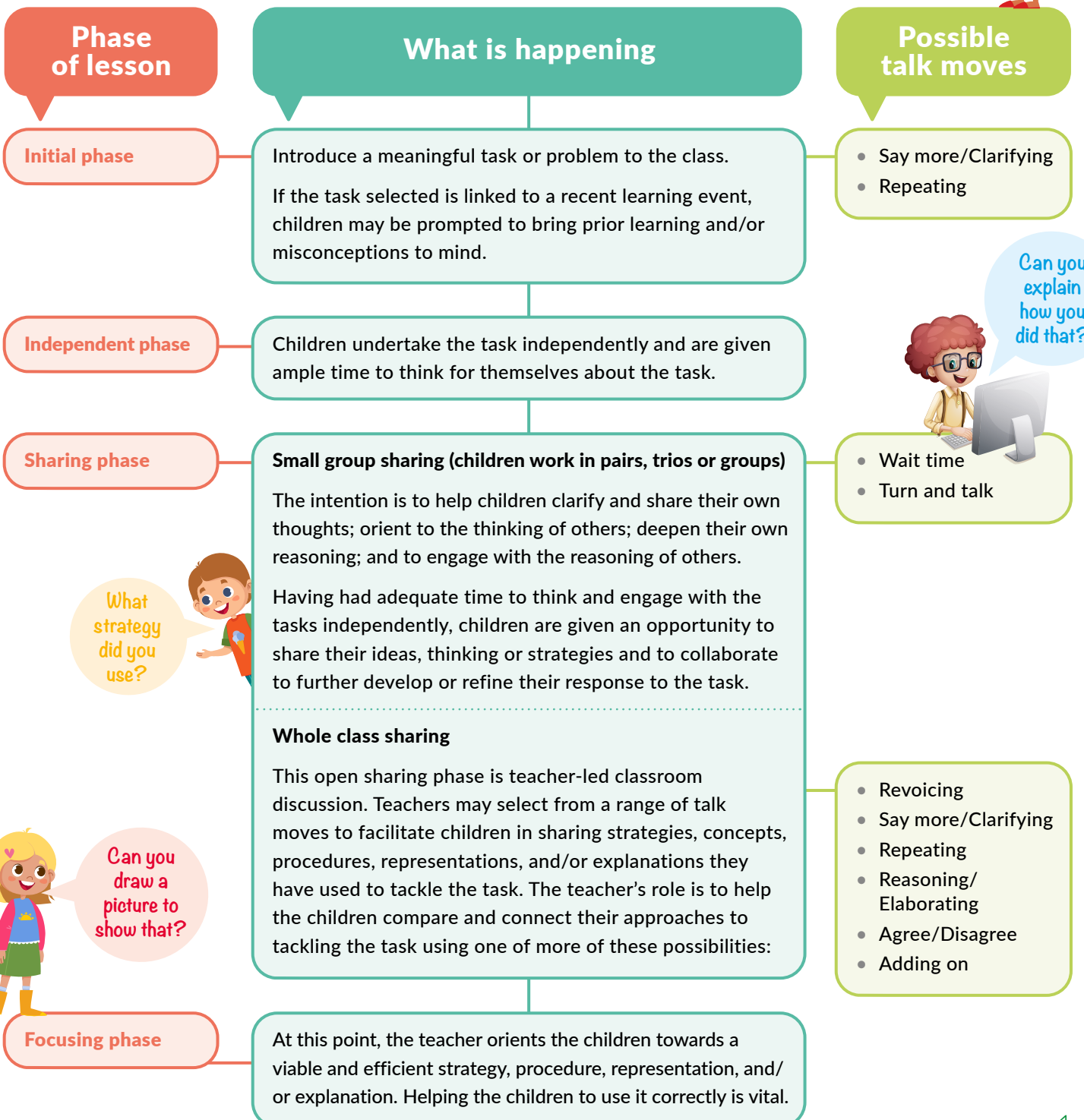


Promoting maths talk in the classroom

Opportunities for maths talk

Maths talk is a collaborative process where children's thinking, strategies and ideas are expressed, shared and/or exchanged. This support material outlines an approach used to illustrate how opportunities for maths talk or 'talk moves' can happen at different phases of a maths lesson. It can be flexibly built into lessons for teacher- and child- led approaches to maths talk. Using talk moves in a meaningful way can support children's understanding in mathematics as well as help foster their productive dispositions.

Did anyone get a different answer?



What strategy did you use?



Can you explain how you did that?



Can you draw a picture to show that?



Audit of learning environment



Promotion of maths talk

When thinking about promoting maths talk in your classroom you might find the following questions helpful.

Ask yourself the following questions:	Sometimes	Always	Never
Do I have the expectation that children can learn correct mathematical language?			
Do I model correct mathematical language?			
Do I encourage children to use correct mathematical language?			
Do I use questions to prompt rich mathematical discussion?			
Do I think out loud about my mathematical ideas?			
Do I allow time for children to reflect on their learning?			
Do I provide opportunities for children to discuss their thinking and justify their answers?			
Do I encourage large group, small group and pair discussion of mathematical ideas?			
Do I read books with mathematical ideas embedded in the story which provide context for using mathematical language?			
Do I have the expectation that children will listen to each other and try to understand the explanations?			
Do I have a focus on children explaining the strategies used, rather than on the right answer?			
Do I encourage children to say why they agree or disagree with other child's explanation or ask questions to help them understand?			



“ Maths talk equips children with tools to make their thinking visible. (Department of Education, 2023) ”

“ A culture of maths talk and an emphasis on mathematical modelling and productive disposition, lend strongly to positive engagement with cognitively challenging tasks. (Department of Education, 2023) ”



References

Department of Education (2023). *Primary Mathematics Curriculum For Primary and Special Schools*. Dublin: Department of Education.