

Building Classroom Climates -- 2nd Grade -- Using Tools in Support of Mathematical Thinking
Video transcript from Day 2: Practicing putting away math bags and doing so quietly

MIA BULJAN: What do mathematicians do? They put their math bags back. You will stop, Christian. So what we're going to do very quietly by color, I'm going to send you back to your desk and you are going to come hang up your math bag. Can you...stop. You will stop. Friends, notice that most of them have a number on them right now. What number does this one have on it?

STUDENTS: Five.

MIA BULJAN: Where should it go?

STUDENT: On the number five.

MIA BULJAN: So can you find the hook that has your number on it? If you get down here to number 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, those bags don't have numbers on them. So if you don't have numbers, you're going to hang them down here. If you have a number, you're going to match it. Friends, who thinks they can do this? I'm going to teach you a new game. Quick like a bunny. It's called silent star. Do you know silent star?

STUDENTS: No.

MIA BULJAN: Oh! You ready?

STUDENTS: Yeah.

MIA BULJAN: Silent star means that as long as I can see a star nobody can talk, and I mean nobody. She can't talk, you can't talk, I can't talk. If the principal comes in, zip it. You got it? So I want you to talk. Go ahead and talk. Talk all you want. Blah, blah, blah...

STUDENTS: Blah, blah, blah...

MIA BULJAN: If there's a silent star, can you talk?

STUDENTS: No.

MIA BULJAN: Can you whisper?

STUDENTS: No.

MIA BULJAN: Can you say anything?

STUDENTS: No.

MIA BULJAN: Okay, so you're going to put your math bags away playing silent star. You guys ready?

STUDENTS: Yes.

MIA BULJAN: You're going to put your chairs up and when you come to the door you have to tell me how many are on my card to get out. I'm not letting you out until you tell me. This one is too easy. How many are on here?

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STUDENTS: One.

MIA BULJAN: Well, not all of them are that easy. So when you get there you have to tell me what's on the card and you can go get your backpacks and line up on the fence. Are you ready?

STUDENTS: Yes.

MIA BULJAN: Okay, if you're in group three put your chairs up.

STUDENT: Four.

STUDENT: Three.

STUDENT: Four.

STUDENT: Three.

STUDENT: Five.

STUDENT: Four.

MIA BULJAN: I know that it's like: Oh, this kid was almost retained, or this kid was, you know, is in RSP, or this kid is whatever, you know, like a learning disability. There's all those things. I hear all the time "this kid is not good at math" or whatever and I didn't see anyone today who wasn't good at math, so it's heartening, you know what I mean? I just feel like they're giving me what they can, like in this moment, like, it's the very beginning of the year -- they're babies. They're like seven years old and to sit for that long, that was really a lot of math. They did math for like ninety minutes or something, which was like insane.