

Oral Language Activities

Turn and Talk

Turn and Talk is a quick way to encourage thinking and sharing of ideas with a partner.

Procedure:

1. Pose a question or topic.
2. Have students turn to share ideas with an “elbow partner”—a partner who is sitting close by.
3. Promote active listening and effective speaking. You may want to review what “accountable talk” looks like and sounds like, and create an anchor chart similar to the one below.

Accountable Talk...	
Looks Like	Sounds Like
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• people facing each other• talking one at a time• encouraging by nodding• showing interest by leaning forward• staying on topic• asking questions for clarification• giving the speaker positive feedback• building on the ideas of others• offering opinions in a respectful way• disagreeing in an agreeable way	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• quiet conversation• listening attentively• “I agree with... and I also think....”• waiting patiently for a turn• “I am not sure I understand what you mean. Could you please explain your thinking?”• “Can you show me the evidence for your thinking?”• “I see your line of thinking but I think....”