

Study Guide—Complete Step 5 before teaching Investigation 5 of the Grade 3 Curriculum

Use the Step 5 “Independent Web Study” and “In Your Classroom” to prepare for a productive study group meeting and discussion.

INDEPENDENT WEB STUDY

Study the Talk Strategy: Listen Carefully

Students learn from each other by critiquing and building on each other’s ideas. But, for this to happen, they first need to hear and understand each other’s ideas. What strategies support deeper listening? Identify one or more strategies from “Listen Carefully” that you’d like to build into your own teaching.

Study the Classroom Case: Listening to Students’ Ideas About Weight

We suggest you begin considering weight from the scientist’s perspective. Then consider weight from the perspective of 3rd grader. How can we help children make the transition from a reliance on felt weight to a new, more scientific understanding?

Study the Classroom Case: Listening to Students’ Ideas About Weight

In this video case Jen’s class discusses a perplexing idea about weight that was raised in *Investigating Weight* 4. As students talk, Jen listens for evidence that they are deepening their understanding of weight.

What do you notice about the strategies or talk moves she uses to uncover her students’ thinking? Or to help students listen to each other’s ideas? Is there something from this case that you might incorporate into your discussions?

IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Audiotape an All-class Discussion

Tape a science discussion. (Place the recorder so that it will pick up both your voice and the students’ voices.) After class, listen to sections of the tape. Can you catch yourself using strategies that encourage students to listen to each other? How do your students respond when you use the move? Does using this strategy change the nature of the discussion?

Identify a question or dilemma that arose from your independent study and your experience in the classroom. Plan to talk about your experience in the study group. You may want to identify a short interchange from the tape (~30 seconds) to share during the study group meeting.

STUDY GROUP MEETING

Learn with Colleagues: Share classroom evidence, successes, and challenges

What did you do differently to encourage students to listen to each other? Prepare for a 5-minute discussion of your experience. (There may or may not be time for everyone to share experiences in every study group meeting, but preparing to discuss your own experience will contribute to discussion of others’ experiences.)

Possible Discussion Protocol

1. Plan a core question for discussion.
2. Share your experience (2 or 3 minutes). If feasible, share a short audio or video clip to anchor the discussion (~30 seconds).
3. Respond to colleagues questions
4. Listen while colleagues discuss the issue.
5. Summarize how you are thinking now. What are the implications for your teaching?