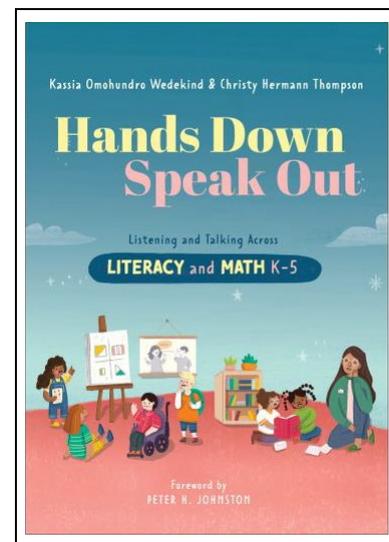


Hands down, speak out

Listening and talking across literacy and math, K–5

Kassia Omohundro Wedekind and Christy Hermann Thompson

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Summary

Maths coach Kassia Omohundro Wedekind and literacy coach Christy Hermann Thompson have spent years comparing notes on how to build effective classroom communities across the content areas. How, they wondered, can we lay the groundwork for classroom conversations that are less teacher-directed and more conducive to student-to-student dialogue?

Their answers start with Hands-Down Conversations, an innovative discourse structure in which students' ideas and voices take the lead while teachers focus on listening and facilitating. In addition to classroom stories and examples, Christy and Kassia provide twenty-eight micro-lessons designed to help F–5 students develop and exercise their speaking and listening muscles.

Inside *Hands down, speak out* you'll learn how to:

- build talk communities that are accessible to everyone, especially those whose voices are traditionally left out of classroom discourse
- analyse classroom conversations in order to plan next steps for developing the classroom talk community
- plan and facilitate three types of conversation across literacy and maths.

Christy and Kassia believe that the development of dialogue skills is worth the investment of time not only because it has the power to deepen our understanding of literacy and mathematics, but also to deepen our understanding of ourselves, our communities and the world.

Other resources

- *Literacy reframed: How a focus on decoding, vocabulary, and background knowledge improves reading comprehension* (SOT2229)
- *Layers of learning: Using read-alouds to connect literacy and caring conversations* (SHP1901)
- *Organic creativity in the classroom: Teaching intuition in academics and the arts* (PRU7088)
- *Early childhood math routines: Empowering young minds to think* (SHP1536)