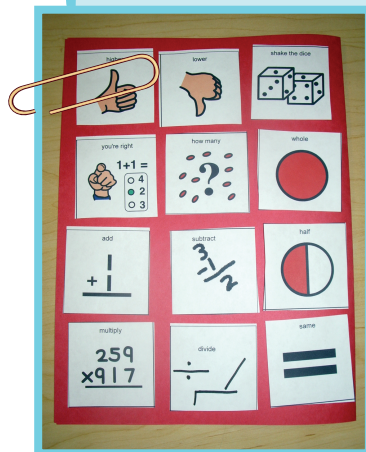


# 76

## Math Communication Board



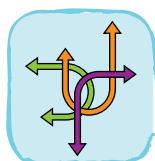
### Materials

- Communication symbols
- Cardboard or board



### Description

Increasingly, teachers are focused on the language of math and are encouraging students to talk and write about the meaning behind their work and discuss different ways to solve problems. For students who do not communicate easily or reliably or for those who are just more successful when they have prompts and visuals to support discussions, a *math communication board* may be helpful.



### Directions

Math is one of those subject areas in which vocabulary does not change drastically throughout the year and few new terms are introduced from week to week (depending on the grade). For this reason, it is sometimes easier to create a master communication board of all of the math vocabulary and/or symbols that will be needed for the year and make it accessible across activities from the first week of school to the last.

Unlike a board that you are creating for an individual student for a specific purpose, a math communication board may include several symbols that can be used across activities and for different purposes. Make either all of the symbols or just some of the symbols accessible to students during whole-class activities, small-group activities, and even during partner activities. The communication symbols also can be used by the teacher as he or she presents concepts and ideas. Students who do not need the symbols can be encouraged to use them anyway, because frequent use of the symbols across activities will undoubtedly help learners who do need help to learn to communicate faster and in a more complex way.



### Example

Eric, a fourth-grade student with multiple disabilities, used a math communication board during all small-group activities. During a probability game, for instance, he used YOUR TURN, MY TURN, SHAKE THE DICE, HIGHER, LOWER, and number symbols to communicate with peers and participate in the game. Other students in his group used the symbols, as well.



## Reference/ Recommended Reading

Silbey, R. (2003). Math out loud! Heard the word? Talking and writing about math boosts understanding in a big way. *Instructor*, 112, 24–26.



## Vendor

### **DynaVox Mayer-Johnson**

<http://www.mayer-johnson.com>

DynaVox Mayer-Johnson is the manufacturer of Boardmaker software products. This web site contains descriptions of and information about the Boardmaker family of products. Boardmaker allows a user to create printed materials using Picture Communication Symbols and other graphics.



## Web Site

### **Council for Exceptional Children**

<http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=7015&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>

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