

# HIGH YIELD ROUTINE: DOT NUMBER TALKS

## WHAT IS IT?

Dot Number Talk involves an arrangement of figures, such as dots, which is displayed for students to determine 'How many?' and discuss how they see the quantity. The teacher facilitates the conversation, with the intention of moving students from a counting strategy to the use of perceptual subitizing (recognizing smaller parts) and composing (combining the parts to determine the whole quantity). Flashing smaller dot scatters (up to ten) for a few seconds helps students develop working memory and visualization skills. Larger dot scatters can simply be displayed with the teacher modelling the written equation that represents student thinking.

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How many do you see?
- How do you see them?  
Did you need to count?
- What parts did you see automatically?
- Do you see it a different way?



## VISIT

Steve Wyborney's 100 Subitizing Slides & 10 Challenge Patterns is an excellent resource!

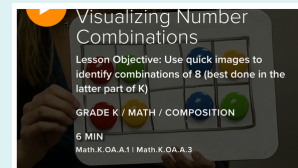


An important variation and 'next step' to a dot number talk is to determine missing or covered parts of the image. This leads to students' understanding and visualization of operations.

### Part Part Whole Games



### Visualizing Number Combinations



### Splat!

