

Tips on grouping within teams

A typical conversation I have with teacher leaders often goes like this:

Me: "Do you work in small groups in your teacher team?"

Teacher leader: "No, because we are a small group."

Me: "So you always work in whole group."

Teacher leader: "No, it's a small group."

Me: "But your whole group is your small group - is that right?"

We tend to think of whole group and small groups in terms of our larger class sizes of students, forgetting the practice of grouping (e.g., partners, triads) is effective for learners of all ages and sizes. Next time a group is having trouble moving forward, try a "turn and talk" with the adults. Although it might initially disarm them in your PLC/data team/collaborative meeting, the results are far more productive.