

An Overview for Principals and Administrators

What is *Listening to Learn*?

Listening to Learn is a K–5 digital interview tool that helps teachers learn how their students reason numerically. It's an assessment for learning that can be used throughout the year to help guide instructional planning. *Listening to Learn* also includes interactive professional learning labs to support teachers.

"How students reason varies, and it's valuable for us as teachers to know as much as possible about all of our students. Interviewing is a way to learn about how students think, their personal reasoning preferences, where they falter, and where they shine."

—Marilyn Burns

Why did Marilyn Burns and Lynne Zolli create *Listening to Learn*?

Marilyn and Lynne have learned that talking with students one on one and listening to how they reason provides specific, accurate, and in-depth information that's critical for planning instruction. From their years of teaching experience, they've learned that written assignments are often not sufficient for providing information about students' ability to reason numerically. Correct answers can hide confusion, while incorrect answers can mask understanding.

"Marilyn and I have had the incredible opportunity to interview more than a thousand K–5 students over more than 15 years. We're excited to share what we've learned with educators."

—Lynne Zolli

Why are math interviews so important?

Being able to reason numerically is essential for students' success with math. *Listening to Learn* helps teachers focus on truly understanding how their students think. With this insight, they can provide instruction that builds on what students know to help them develop, cement, and extend their learning.

"Interviewing students—asking them to do math without paper and pencil—has pushed me to learn more about how they reason numerically than I ever did before in my years of teaching."

—Marilyn Burns

How do *Listening to Learn* Labs support teachers' professional learning?

Listening to Learn Labs are interactive, on-demand professional learning opportunities that provide support for giving interviews and learning from them. There are three categories of Labs—Reasoning Labs, Strategy Labs, and Interview Labs. Drawing on the extensive video library, Labs provide practice, encouragement, and reflections from Marilyn and Lynne. All Labs are designed to be experienced individually or with colleagues.

"We've created the Labs to help teachers understand the benefits of interviewing by providing them a view into how we interview students and what we learn from them."

-Lynne Zolli

How does *Listening to Learn* serve principals and administrators?

For principals and administrators, *Listening to Learn* serves as a tool that supports conferencing, collaboration, and planning. The data from the individual and class reports can be used for conferencing with teachers and parents, for supporting grade-level collaborations, and for informing school-wide planning.

"We have been able to use these math interviews to leverage professional development, guide our school-wide scope and sequence for math, support our coaching cycles, and inform our weekly grade-level planning collaborations."

-Sara Liebert, Principal, John Muir Elementary, San Francisco, CA



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To learn more about using *Listening to Learn* in your school or district find your area representative here. Or contact customer support at 800-225-5800.