

# Strengths-Based TEACHING AND LEARNING in Mathematics



TEACHING  
TURNAROUNDS  
FOR GRADES K-6

Beth McCord  
Kobett

Karen S.  
Karp



FOREWORD BY  
FRANCIS (SKIP) FENNEL

A JOINT PUBLICATION

CORWIN Mathematics



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

# Thank you

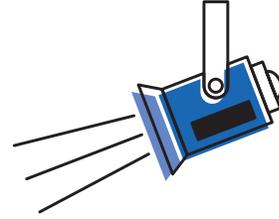
FOR YOUR  
INTEREST  
IN CORWIN

Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Strengths-Based Teaching and Learning in Mathematics*. This resource gives you a template for informing parents about your new learning approach to mathematics.

**LEARN MORE** about this title, including Features, Table of Contents, and Reviews.

# SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR PRACTICE:

## Sample Family Letter



.....

Hello Families,

I want to let you know more about an approach we are using in class to talk about your child's mathematics learning. I am focusing on an approach that is called a Strengths-Based Perspective. Rather than just talking about what is lacking in your child's understanding of mathematical ideas, I will try to focus on the strengths I see such as what they do well and how they have used ideas they already know to build new ideas. Expect that I may share homework that is a game to play or a puzzle to solve. I may ask your child to teach you something we are learning during mathematics instruction—please be well behaved!

I want you to know that we are partners in helping your child become a mathematically literate member of a democratic society, who won't be scammed by people trying to trick them out of their money or confused by numbers. Instead, your child will be able to know the mathematics that will get jobs and help them be successful with their finances.

One thing we do request in this process is that you do not say to your child any of the following (even if you may have felt this way at some point in your life): *I never understood math, math was always my worst subject, I don't use math at my workplace, and you may have gotten your dislike of math from my side of the family!* Research shows your words have the greatest power with your child. Instead, tell them how mathematics will help them now and in the future. Maybe you too will share your math strengths with your child. I appreciate your help and your positive energy. Together, let's make your child ready for any future they can imagine.

Your child's teacher,

---