



SPARK PROBLEM SOLVING

*Igniting Deep Thinking Through
Math Instruction * K-4th Grade*

FROM ROTE STEPS TO REAL UNDERSTANDING

Practical coaching and professional development that helps teachers shift from procedural teaching to rich, conceptual learning.

www.ericainyourcorner.com

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Available virtually & in person



WHY SPARK?

Too often, math instruction emphasizes memorization over meaning. This leaves students without the confidence or tools to think flexibly when faced with real problems. SPARK was created to change that. By centering reasoning, representation, and reflection, SPARK builds classrooms where every learner has access to deep understanding, teachers have clarity to guide instruction, and schools see measurable gains in both confidence and achievement.

VISION

Every child deserves math instruction that transforms learning—helping students to make sense of problems, to apply strategies flexibly, and to grow in both confidence and deep understanding. SPARK supports teachers in creating classrooms where:

- Struggle is productive.
- Reasoning is valued.
- Students apply flexible strategies.
- Students own their learning.
- Conceptual understanding is the foundation—for teachers and students alike.

WHAT IS SPARK?

SPARK Problem Solving is a comprehensive instructional framework (K-4th grade) that:

- Builds teacher clarity, confidence, and instructional precision.
- Equips students with strategies and visual models to solve problems.
- Transforms math from rote steps into authentic, conceptual learning.
- Is flexible-- adaptable for both full math blocks and targeted problem-solving instruction

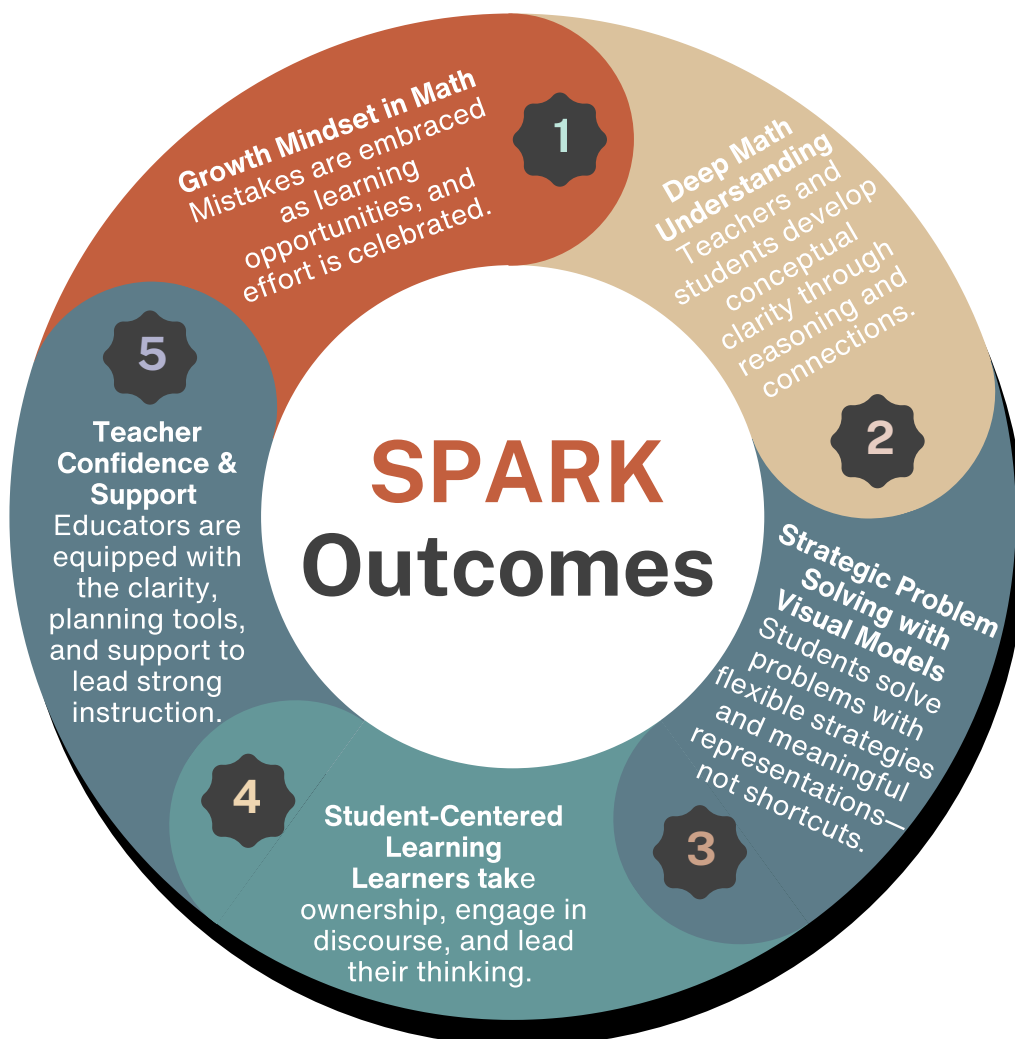
SPARK Outcomes

SPARK Fuels Rigorous, Thinking-Rich Math Instruction.

Strong math instruction doesn't happen by chance. It happens when students are challenged to think deeply, reason clearly, and solve problems with confidence. SPARK makes that possible by equipping teachers with the mindset, tools, and instructional moves to build classrooms full of capable, flexible problem solvers.



This transformation is grounded in five essential outcomes:



Proven Results at a Glance

▶ Student gains you can see

Nearly 90% of students increased their math scores from the beginning to the end of the year.

▶ State testing success

Math state test proficiency rates rose significantly, with a greater percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards compared to the previous year.

▶ Engagement like never before

100% of classrooms showed growth in reasoning, math talk, and problem solving.

▶ From memorization to mastery

In 6 weeks, students moved from guessing to solving with labeled models and number sentences.

▶ Feedback that drives impact

98% said SPARK's coaching improved lesson effectiveness.

▶ Immediate, lasting change

All student groups made gains, including those in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and multilingual learners.

Classrooms showed measurable increases in:

- ▶ Student math talk and peer discussion
- ▶ Use of visual models to solve problems
- ▶ Confidence in reasoning and perseverance through challenge

Leaders reported improvements in:

- ▶ Instructional clarity and consistency across grade levels
- ▶ Teacher confidence in facilitating problem solving and rich discourse
- ▶ Alignment of math block structure to rigorous, student-centered instruction



Testimonials



“Erica led a math transformation that changed how our teachers teach and how our students think.”

- Cara McCarthy, Former Lower School Principal and Current Chief Schools Officer

"The most valuable takeaway from our work is the importance of valuing reasoning over just getting the right answer. That's pushed me to make mathematical thinking more visible in my teaching, ask better questions, encourage multiple strategies, and create space for students to explain their reasoning."

- Ms. P, 1st Grade Teacher

"Her ability to break down complex concepts and provide clear examples and modeling has been instrumental in helping teachers develop high-quality instruction." - Gabrielle Galat, 3rd Grade Teacher

"Working with Erica has reshaped the way I teach math in first grade...I've learned the importance of allowing students to engage in productive struggle by giving them the space to think critically and take ownership of their learning"

- Ms. Chisholm, Classroom Teacher

"She has the unique and unteachable skill of being able to hold staff accountable while they feel unequivocally supported. Teachers come to her to help them problem solve or to share ideas, they implement her feedback, and shine in her praise."

- Emily Davidson, School Leader

Bring SPARK to Your School

SPARK adapts to your school or district's needs, whether embedded into the math block or focused on word problem instruction.

Visit www.ericainyourcorner.com to learn more.