Talking Chips

The goal of this strategy is to promote equal participation and develop discourse abilities. Each member of a group gets different chips that they must use whenever they want to speak. These chips include different strategies to use in conversation and could include:

- Express a doubt
- Answer a question
- Ask a question
- Give an idea
- Ask for clarification/ clarify an idea
- Respond to an idea
- Summarize
- Encourage participation
- Say something positive about someone’s idea

Students place one of these chips on their desks before speaking. When they finish speaking, the other members think of different ways to respond and continue the discussion. Students should not speak unless they use one of the talking chips. The goal is for all students to use their chips, avoiding the risk that only some members of the group participate in the task.

Source: Adapted from the work of Spencer Kagan, 1994.

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