

Building Thinking Classrooms Reflection

There is a popular saying, *If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you*. It is likely it won't be a smooth ride as you try to implement new strategies into your practice that support struggle. It is almost guaranteed that you will experience multiple bumps or roadblocks along the way. You'll stumble along as a preschool child does when parading around in Mom's high-heeled shoes. Know there is a good chance some of your efforts toward growth and change may be unsuccessful. Make sure to give yourself grace, as new learning doesn't come easy. Your professional growth efforts most likely will be messy and complex, but your improvement will be good for your students.

Working toward professional improvement is hard work. Commit to taking occasional time-outs from this work to reflect upon your progress, recognize what you've accomplished, and celebrate your efforts. It may be that you incorporated new activities at the beginning of the school year to build community in your math classroom. Or maybe you responded to a student's struggle in a more productive way than you have in the past. Whatever the improvement, take the time to pat yourself on the back. Celebrate the little things. Celebrate the big things. Know all you are doing in supporting struggle is making a difference in the lives of your students.

- *Productive Math Struggle* by SanGiovanni, Katt, and Dykema

First I thought...

Then I learned...

Now I think...

So I will...

I'd like to celebrate that...