

## HOW TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS

GROWTH MINDSET

### What to say:

- "When you learn how to do a new kind of problem, it grows your math brain!"
- "If you catch yourself saying, I'm not a math person, just add the word yet to the end of the sentence."
- "That feeling of math being hard is the feeling of your brain growing."
- "The point isn't to get it all right away. The point is to grow your understanding step by step. What can you try next?"



### What NOT to say:

- "Not everybody is good at math. Just do your best."
- That's ok, maybe math is not one of your strengths"
- Don't worry, you'll get it if you keep trying
- \*If students are using the wrong strategies, their efforts might not work. Plus they may feel particularly inept if their efforts are fruitless.
- "Great effort! You tried your best."
- \*Don't accept less than optimal performance from your students.\*



FIXED MINDSET