

## Comments on Video Clips

### Water Lesson

#### Why is it a good lesson?

- The teacher looks really happy to be there. The children can read this signal and it makes them feel loved and cared for.
- The teacher gives the students time to answer her questions. This moves the emphasis from 'teacher talk' to 'student talk'. By giving the students time, the teacher is showing that she values their opinions enough to wait for them.
- She creates a lot of opportunities for the children to talk.

#### Values talk in the lesson:

The topic itself is values-related, because the children are being reminded that water is a precious gift that should not be wasted.

Specific examples of the teacher's 'values talk in the lesson include:

- "If you save money, what would you like to do with it?"  
Here the teacher is not telling the children what they should do. She is asking a question, which puts the responsibility onto them to think about the idea of 'ceiling on desires' and how they can make good use of any money saved from not wasting water. This lesson can be linked to the poster 'Do not waste'.
- "Remember to take your time and calculate carefully."  
This reminds the children that, in our daily lives, we need to carry out all of our activities with care and thought. Children need to be reminded of this message at every opportunity.
- "What can we do as citizens of Qinghai to save water?"  
It is important that children are constantly asked this kind of question. We want them to understand that "I am only one small person, but I have the power to make an impact and make a difference by changing my own behaviour". The teacher has, again, put the responsibility onto the children to think about how they can contribute, rather than telling them.

### Singing in Mathematics Lessons

In these video clips you see teachers using singing in the mathematics classroom. In many cases these teachers have composed the songs themselves. The important features about these songs are:

1. They appeal to the children's sense of rhythm, and bring some fun and a change of pace to the mathematics lesson.
2. Singing reaches children's subconscious minds and helps to strengthen the values concepts and the mathematics concepts.
3. They use 'values talk' and 'mathematics talk'. The songs help the children with their mathematics activity or help them to learn and remember the topic while at the same time they are using 'values talk' to remind them about important values.

Question for discussion: Make a list of all the 'values talk' and values messages seen in these songs.