First School

UNITING THE BEST OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Creating High Quality Learning Environments: Uniting the Best of PreK and K-3

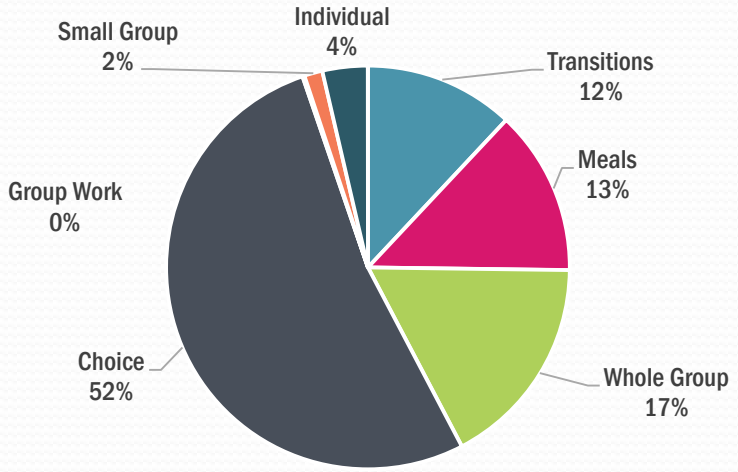
April 3-4, 2017

Minnesota

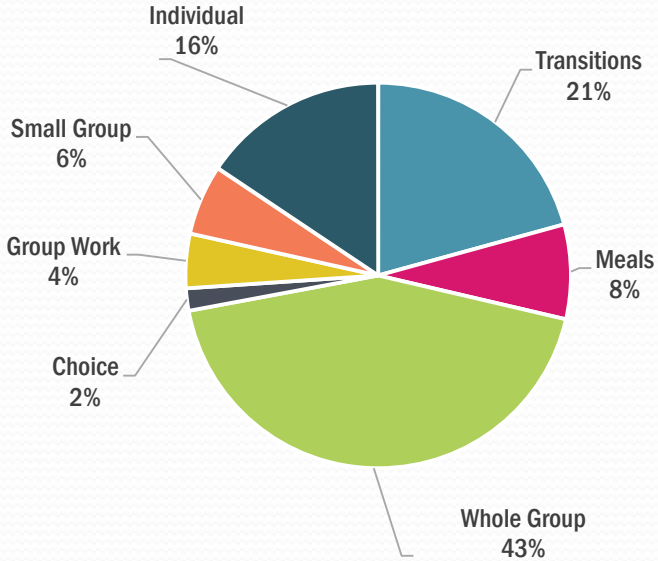
Where we begin:

- Our schools are not perfect
- There is not “one weird trick”
- One thing at a time
- We cannot improve if we keep doing everything the same way
- There is no “we can’t.” There is only, “How can we solve this problem?”

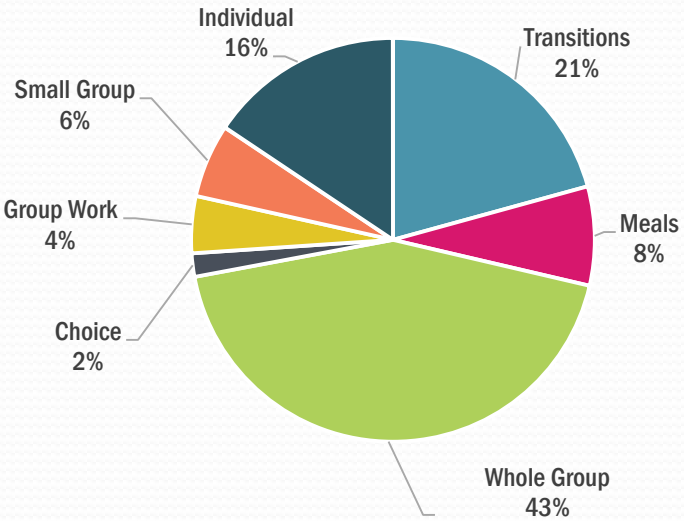
Pre-K Activity Settings



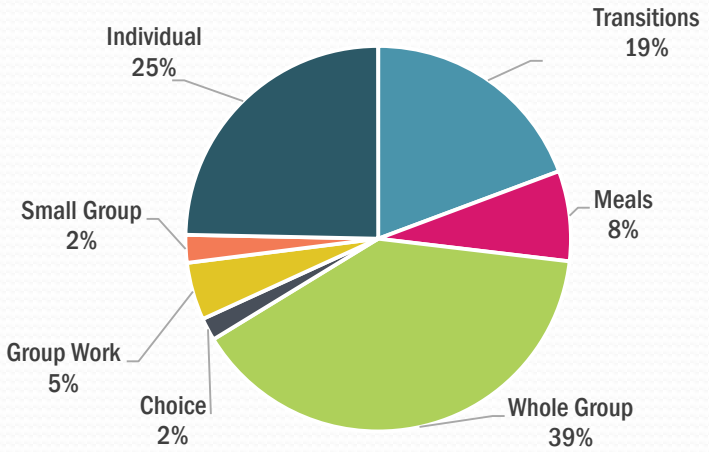
K Activity Settings



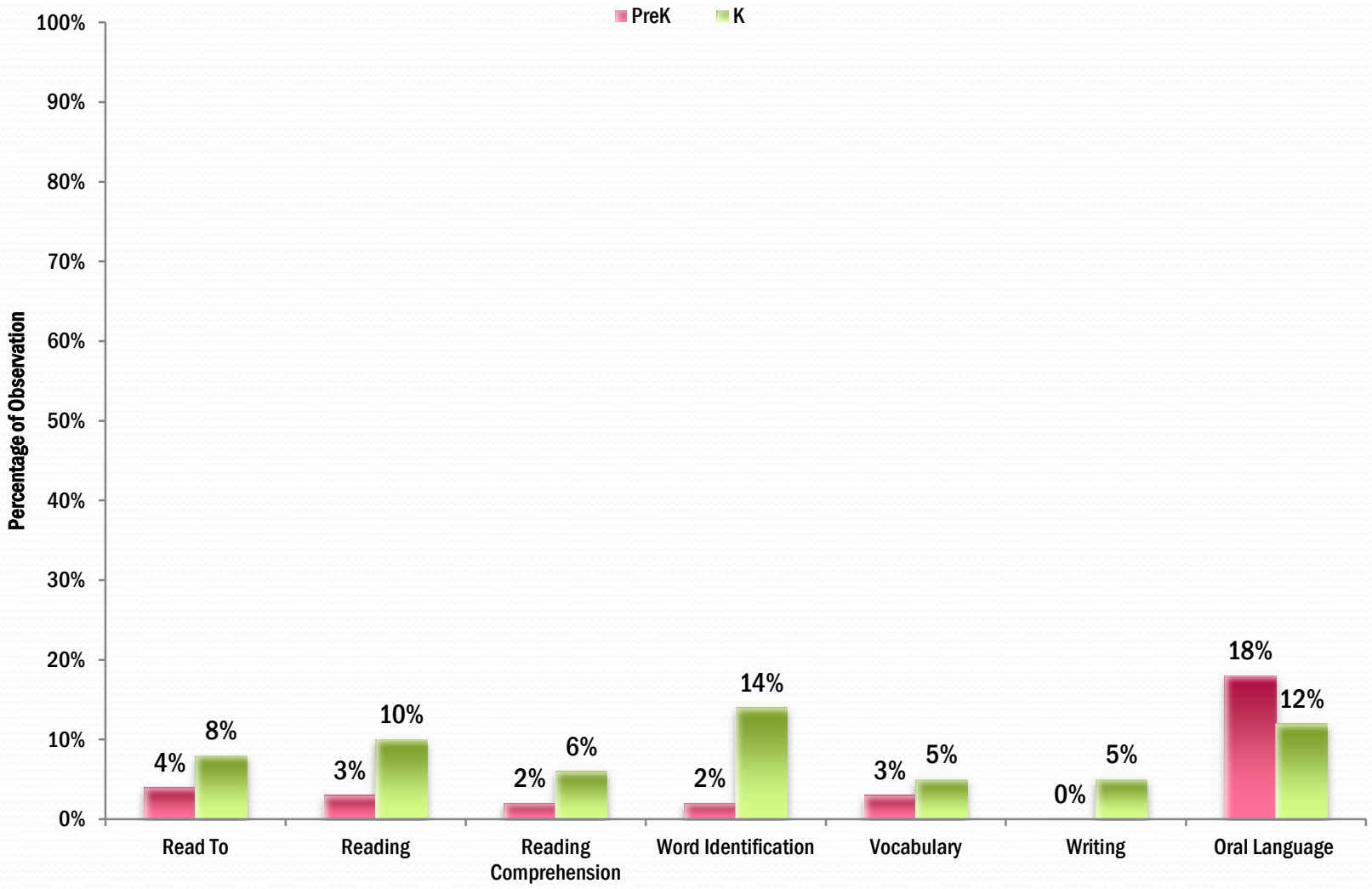
K Activity Settings



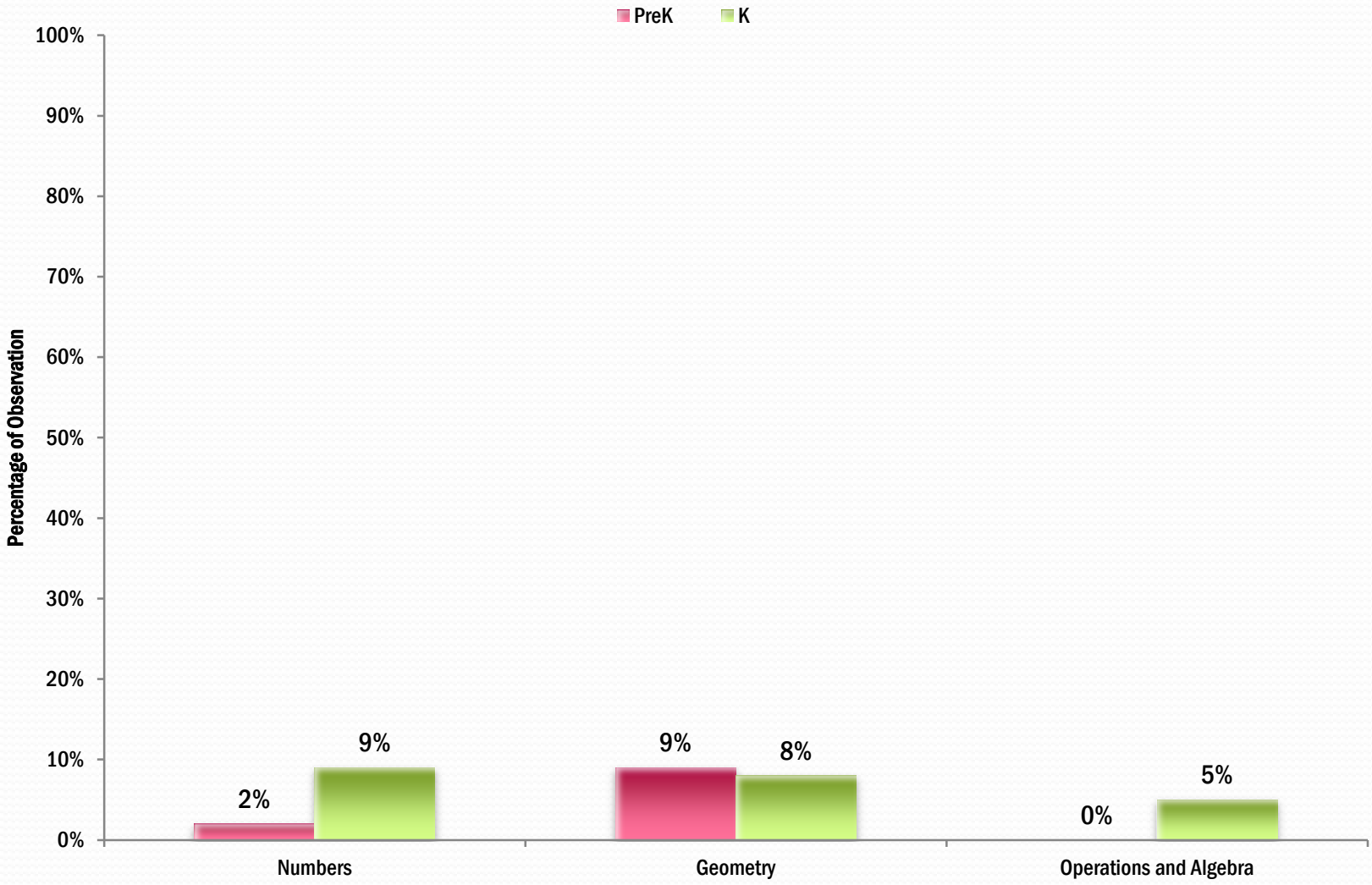
Grade 3 Activity Setting



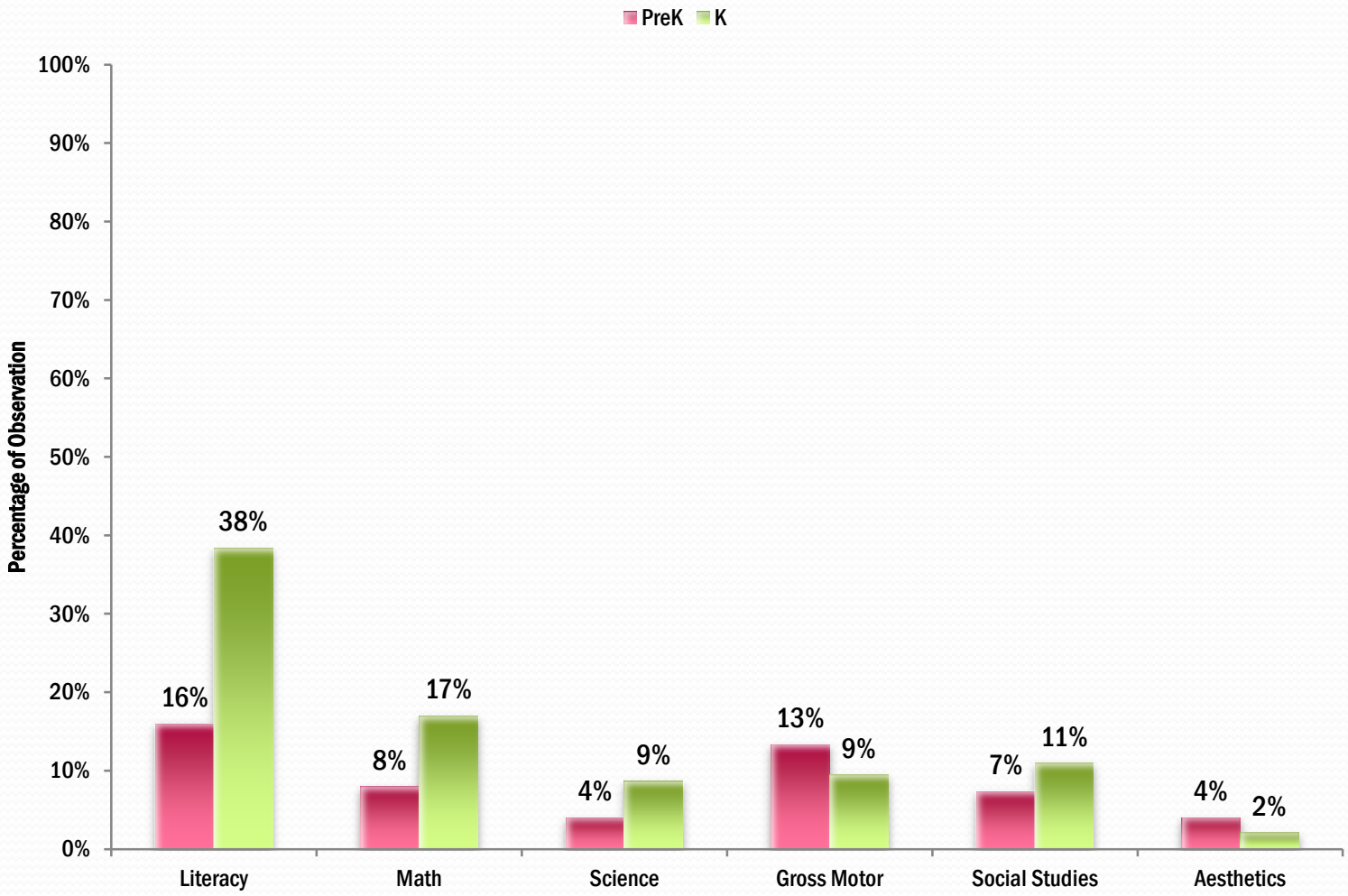
Components of Literacy



Components of Math



Content Area Balance



Uniting the Best of PreK-3

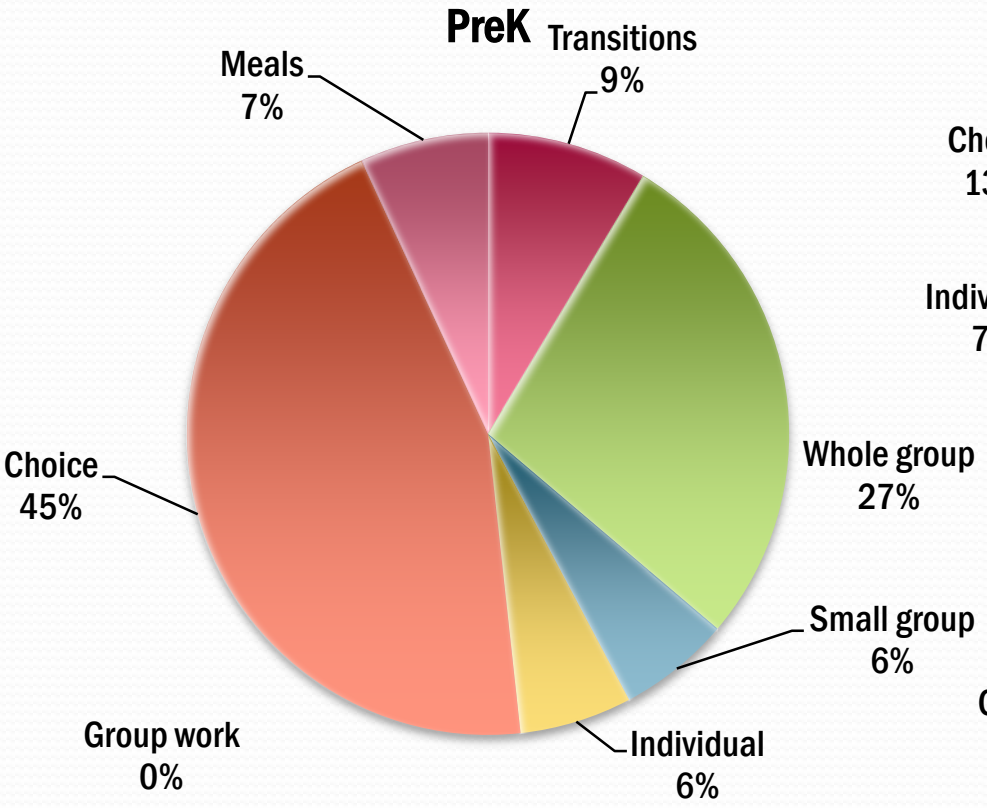
- Best of PreK
  - High engagement
  - Autonomy
  - Facilitation
- Best of K-3
  - Content
  - Integration
  - Higher order thinking skills

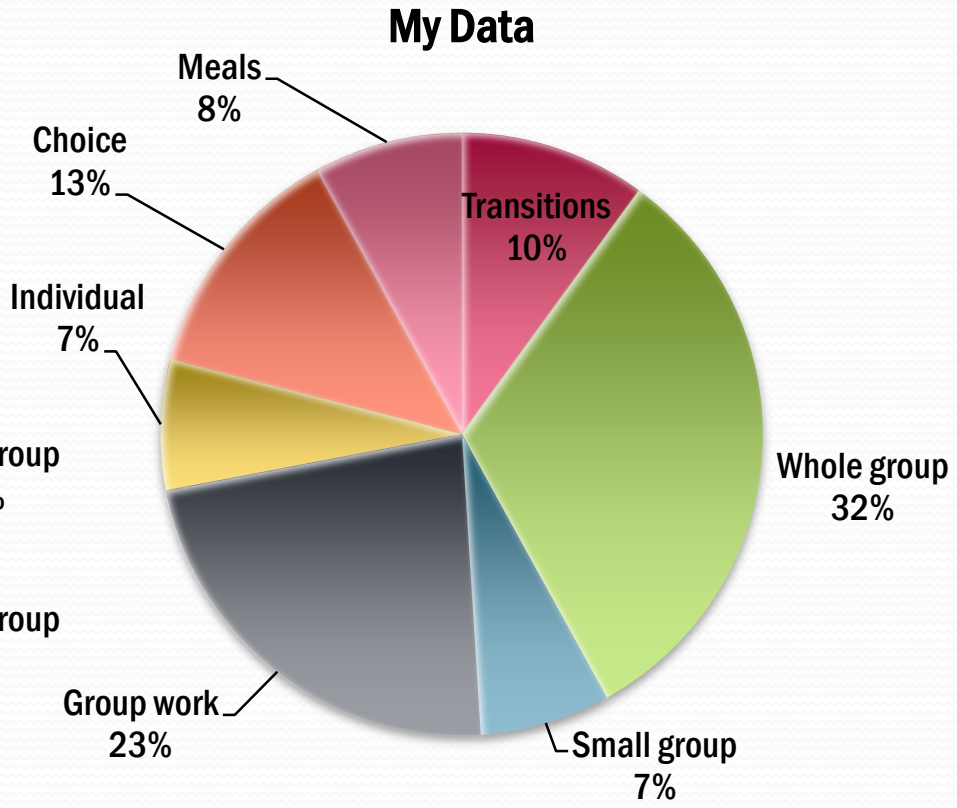
How do we connect?

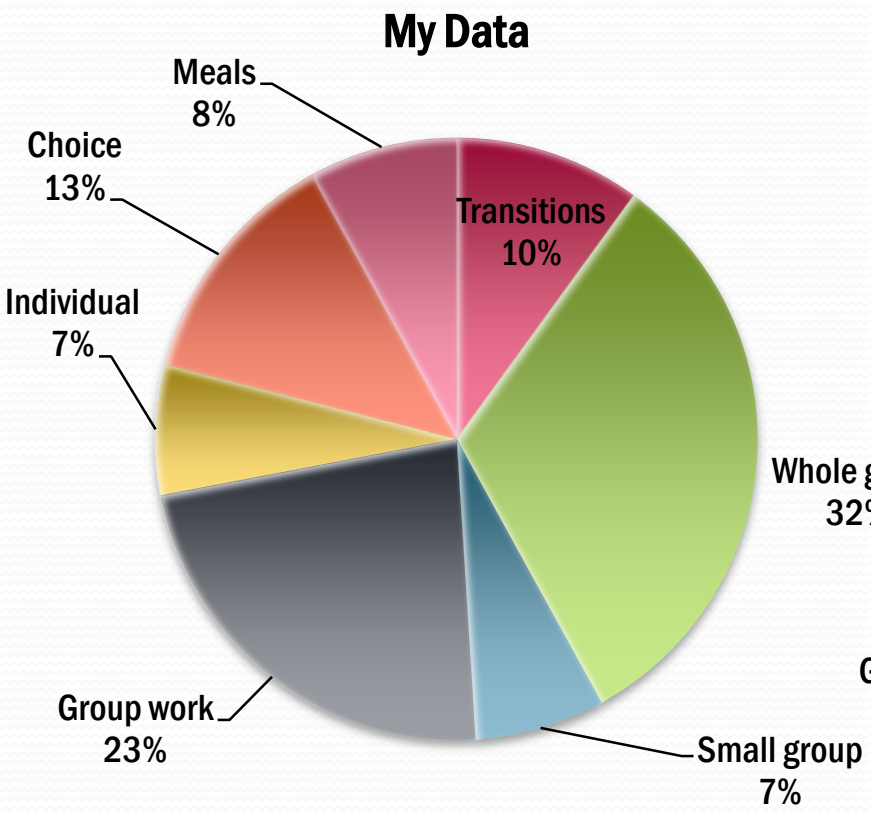
- What pedagogical techniques do you know of that maximize the following?
  - Content
  - High engagement
  - Self-regulation
  - Social skills practice

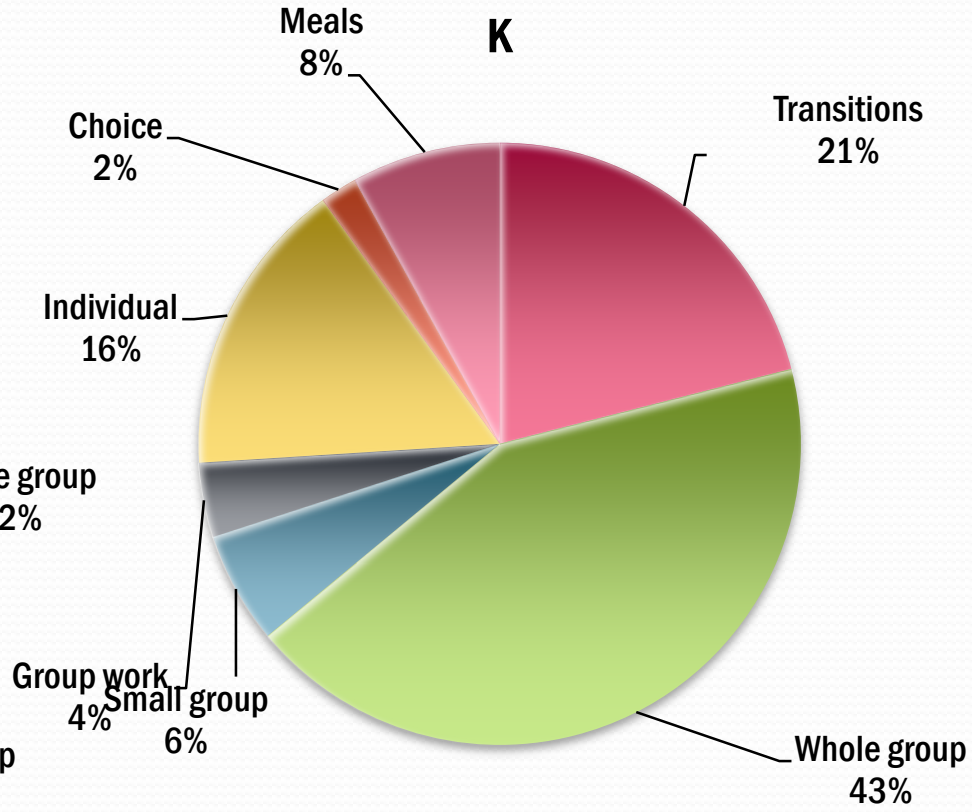
Picking Two

- Playful learning
- Project-based learning


PreK
Transitions
9%
Meals
7%
Choice
45%
Whole group
27%
Small group
6%
Group work
0%
Individual
6%


My Data
Meals
8%
Choice
13%
Transitions
10%
Individual
7%
Whole group
32%
Group work
23%
Small group
7%


My Data
Meals
8%
Choice
13%
Individual
7%
Transitions
10%
Whole group
32%
Group work
23%
Small group
7%


K
Meals
8%
Choice
2%
Transitions
21%
Individual
16%
Group work
4%
Small group
6%
Whole group
43%

Playful Learning

- Take some traditional play spaces
  - Playground
  - Developmental centers
- Add some content on purpose
  - Play plans
  - Tasks
- Maybe group based on criteria

Let's Practice

- Here are some centers
  - Kapla blocks
  - Painting
  - Home living center
- Here are some objectives
  - Uses invented spelling to write words
  - Recognizes and continues patterns
  - Explains how objects are alike and different

Implementation

- Vision and permission
- Work smarter
  - Using building or elsewhere
- Go beyond Pinterest
  - Not just cute
  - What are kids getting out of this?
- Formative assessment
  - Children demonstrating learning

KWL

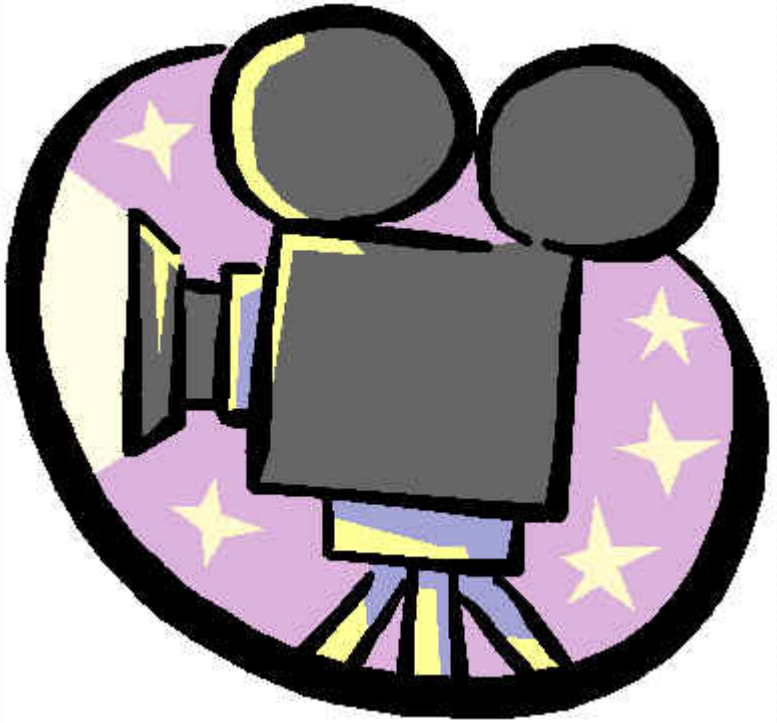
- What do you think you know about project-based learning?
- What have you tried?
- What do you want to learn about project-based learning?

Project Based Learning

- Not theme of the month
- Pick an objective
  - Center on but don't limit to
- Think big. Then think bigger.
- Intentionality
  - Open-ended
  - Closed-ended

Around Objectives

- Let's watch a video



Around Activities: Animal Exhibit

- Trip to the museum
- Planet Earth
- Planning
- Execution
- Time frame
  - Nine weeks
  - A few hours each week

Trip to the Museum

- Practicing observations
- Asking questions that exhibits bring up
- Classifying animals in exhibits
- Gathering ideas

Planet Earth

- Writing sample
  - Choose an animal from the video and teach your audience about that animal.
  - Formative assessment

Planet Earth

- Choosing a Biome: Class Discussion
  - Paideia-style
  - Teacher as facilitator
  - Choose an answer and defend
  - Counter others' points

HELLENIC SOCIETY
ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ
ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ
ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ
1977

Planning

- Choose an animal and justify it
  - Draw your animal in habitat
  - Explain what features of the animal drew you to it

Planning

- Making Books
- Designing the Biome
  - Venn diagram for plants and animals, alive and not alive
- Designing Costumes

Execution

- Creating the Biome/Costumes
  - Small group, teacher-facilitated conversation
- Creating Scripts
  - Full writing process
- Presentation

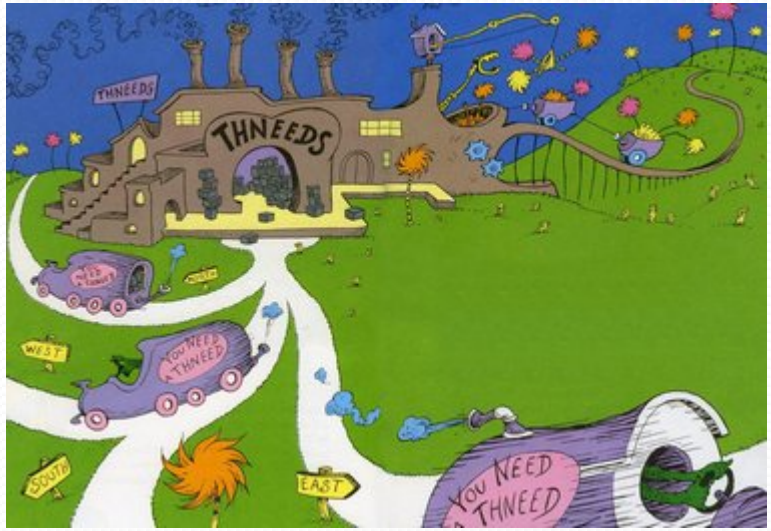
Kidspiration
Dress-up

Let's do it

- MN Social Studies 2.2.4.5
- Individuals, businesses, and governments interact and exchange goods, services, and resources in different ways and for different reasons; interactions between buyers and sellers in a market determines the price and quantity exchanged of a good, service, or resource.

Biggering

- Spread out
  - Go meet with people you don't know
- Share your project
  - Get help making it bigger
  - Go back to your groups
  - Incorporate ideas



Overcoming Obstacles

- What are your obstacles?

Thanks so much!

- Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions
  - adam.holland@unc.edu
  - (919)413-7198
  - firstschool.us