



Welcome fellow Recovering Traditionalists to Episode 40. Today we take a look at Purposeful Practice.

Welcome to Build Math Minds the podcast, where fidelity to your students is greater than fidelity to your textbook. I'm your host, Christina Tondevid, the recovering traditionalist and BuildMathMinds.com Founder, where my mission is to change the way we teach elementary math to our kiddos. Are you ready to start building math minds and not just creating calculators? Let's get started.

If you have been around Build Math Minds for anytime, you should be familiar with Ann Elise Record. She helps me manage [the free Facebook group](#) as well as creating videos that are inside the paid [Build Math Minds PD site](#).

Well, Ann Elise got to team up with Dr. Nicki Newton and Dr. Alison J. Mello for the book [Fluency Doesn't Just Happen with Addition and Subtraction: Strategies and Models for Teaching the Basic Facts](#).

I just got this book about a week ago. I'm so excited they are done with it and it's available for all of you to purchase.

In this episode I wanted to share a part of the book that I have read about Purposeful Practice and I double underlined it as I was reading.

On page 10, they write:

*"Leveling workstations addresses the idea that meaningful practice should be individualized (Van de Walle & Lovin, 2006). When students are working in their zone of proximal development (Vygotsky, 1978), then they are not bored or frustrated. They can actually build a solid foundation of understanding. This specifically looks like some students working on making ten facts and other students working on making doubles. Everyone is working towards the grade level standard **but at their own pace**. In literacy we would never say that everyone has to read the same books at the same time, but in math we do exactly that! It doesn't work for literacy and it doesn't work for math either. Students will progress towards grade level standards at different times and that should be expected and respected."*

I love that! We don't have all the kids read the same book in reading. Now there are definitely times we have them read the same passages so that we can have a common conversation about things, but we also have times that kids are reading books at their level.

We need to do the same for our students when it comes to math. The book Fluency Doesn't Just Happen is your guide for that. The book is full of what to expect as kids are building their fluency and ideas on how to respect that. What do you actually do in your classroom to allow students to work in their zone of proximal development when it comes to addition and subtraction facts? You will find all of that in this book.

Now remember with all of these episodes I don't go deep into the book or article because if this is an area you want to learn more about, then I want you to go learn it straight from the source. We are all different learners and teachers and what I take away from a book or article might be different than what you take away. So if you want to learn more about how to build fluency with the basic addition and subtraction facts, then this book is for you. I'll link to it on the show notes page [buildmathminds.com/40](https://buildmathminds.com/40)

If you want more in-depth math professional development I'd love to have you come join me inside the Build Math Minds PD site. Enrollment opens only once a year to the public, but a little birdy told me that we might be opening up enrollment soon for people who are on the Build Math Minds waitlist. Since you give up your time each week to spend it with me here on the podcast I thought I'd give you the inside scoop. So head on over to [buildmathminds.com/bmm](https://buildmathminds.com/bmm) to get details about the PD site and get yourself added to the waitlist.