All teachers ground their instruction in fundamental beliefs that they have about learning. These beliefs have guided all aspects of my thinking and focus on teaching talk across the years. These principles play out in every teaching situation regardless of student age, number of talkers in the group, or the content of the conversation.”

—Kara Pranikoff

1. Talking helps us think and thinking helps us talk.

2. We can trust kids to negotiate their own conversations.

3. A good conversationalist is a good talker and a good listener.

4. Kids prefer to listen and learn from each other.

5. Students are their own best advocates.