Using some short video-clips, this presentation will discuss mid-career middle school math teachers’ use of the “Mathematical Practices” advocated by the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics (CCSSM). These “core practices” include making sense, constructing and critiquing mathematical arguments, recognizing structure, and communicating with precise mathematical language. The working hypothesis is that teachers who employ these practices confidently will demonstrate their value and that children who experience the power of these practices will be more likely to adopt them for their own empowerment. The CCSSM core mathematical practices are very close to the “mathematical habits of mind” advocated by several authors and organizations. While the phrase “habits of mind” may suggest internal mental states, the word “practices” may suggest something more active and public. Nonetheless, the goal in both cases is to support active engagement in learning and in doing mathematics. (Received September 20, 2012)