Losing the "Secret"

Parent Tape: Early Algebra Ideas

Involving One Variable

Date: 1993-09-30

Location: Harding Elementary School

Researcher: Robert B. Davis

Transcriber(s): Spang, Kathleen Verifier(s): Yedman, Madeline Date Transcribed: Fall 2010

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Time Speaker Transcription

Jeff Is it wrong? Don't erase.

Michael I'll whistle it into the microphone.

Ankur Michael, do you know a secret?

Jeff I'll keep it a secret till we are sure.

Stephanie Yeah.

Ankur Michelle, do you have a secret?

Jeff We think we do.

Romina I do.

Jeff We are almost there.

Davis I'm going to make up this problem here and that's going to

be nineteen and that number is going to be sixty. [Off

camera: Davis writes $(x) \square (19 +) + 60 = 0$

Romina I have. Amy, me and Brian have it.

Michael I know what the secret is but I don't know how to

use it.

Bobby I have it too.

Davis This problem here and it's nineteen [inaudible].

Michael It's the multiples of a number.

Student What multiples?

Student Uh oh!

Stephanie Oh okay. Is one of the numbers six?

Brian Oh! Oh! Oh!

Michael I don't know the secret.

Jeff No, don't erase that. Ah!

Davis What? Okay. Stephanie says one number is six. [Davis

writes 6.] Anybody got any others?

Milin Would another one be ten? [Davis writes 6, 10]

Student I know.

Brian Oh! I think, what does it say? Five and twelve.

Student Thirty.

Davis One of the numbers is thirty.

Michelle I It doesn't work.

Bobby I know. Student Thirty.

Jeff Are we suppose to use two separate numbers?

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Student One of the numbers is three.

Michael How did you get this?

Student Thirty.

Milin I got one.

Student Thirty.

Davis Thirty.

Jeff Eight.

Brian I can't believe I got that though. Stephanie Oh my God this is so easy.

Davis Eight.
Student Five.
Davis Five.

Brian That was the first problem that came to my mind.

Jeff Well.

Michael Oh, now I get it. Hey I know what it is. Stephanie These are like the easiest problems.

Student Oh my God!

Michael Hey I know what it is? Jeff I'll try my old one.

Davis Would people check this out? I think maybe we got five.

Jeff Someone just shoot me.

Michael I know what it is. It is the multiples of the number.

Milin I got ten.

Stephanie I'll do six. I'll do six. Six.

Matt I got two.

Jeff Oh God I know.
Brian What about twelve?
Jeff He had to go say it.

Matt I have two.

Brian You forgot twelve.

Davis Davis is talking at the same time the students are talking.

Off camera: Ten, five, two. Davis writes 6, 10, and 2. Two.

One of the numbers is two. Another number is three. Davis writes 6, 10, 2, 3. This one has lots of numbers. Thirty, thirty. Davis writes 6, 10, 2, 3, 30. Bobby, I didn't hear you. Five. Davis writes 5, 6, 10, 2, 3, and 30 Okay, uh would people check these out? I think maybe we better

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be careful. Who is going to check five to make sure it works? You're checking ten. Okay, will you...which one are you doing? Six? Okay, Stephanie is doing six. Hum, Milin is doing ten. Anybody checking...Who is doing two? Matt, you're doing two. Matt, that's Milin, this is Matt. Michael you're doing thirty? Okay, somebody is doing three?]

Matt Five is wrong.
Michael I'll do thirty.
Bobby I'll do seventeen.
Michael Me do thirty.

Davis Ankur you have thirty?

Jeff Robert, what are you doing Robert?

Student For which number?
Brian I'll guess I'll do three.
Student I did one already.
Michael Thirty times thirty.

Davis Brian is doing three? Good.

Milin Ten doesn't work.
Ankur Ten doesn't work.
Milin Ten does not work.
Davis Ten does not work.
Student Are you sure Mil?

Milin Yeah.

Student Are you sure?

Milin Yeah.

Student What number works?

Milin Yeah, ten times ten is one hundred. Yeah, ten times ten.

Yeah ten times ten is one hundred and

Ankur We lost our secret.

Milin We lost our secret. Hey, you can't do that.

Michael It only worked for a couple of them.

Student It doesn't work.

Davis What good is a secret that doesn't work?

Student Ten doesn't work.

Jeff I can say. I can think it's twelve or I can think it's eighty-

three in my head but it's worthless, it's worthless if, if it's

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not right. [While Jeff was talking, other students were

talking at the same time.]

Student Three doesn't work.
Student Two doesn't work.
Student Five doesn't work.

Student Does thirty work? Who's got thirty?

Student Wait, there is no possible answer for that one.

Michael I'm doing thirty. Hold on. Hold on.

Davis Okay, let's, let's get rid of some of these which are the ones

we are sure doesn't work?

Student Three. Brian Ten.

Michelle I All of them don't work.

Student None of them work. None of them work.

Milin Thirty. Michael do thirty. Ankur Thirty doesn't work either.

Davis Oh wow! You checked all of them and none of them

worked.

Student Where is the calculator?

Michael Is there an answer to that one?

Student I think I know why.
Student Should I tell you why?

Michael Because of the geometric shapes.

Student I know what it is. Stephanie Six doesn't work.

Michelle I Where the heck is the problem?

Student I don't know.

Jeff There is no more problems.

Stephanie Six doesn't work.

Davis [Is talking in the background. Inaudible].

Jeff What do you think it is?
Bobby I know the answer to five.
Jeff It's either eight or thirteen.

Michael It's got to be sixteen. It's eight or thirteen.

Davis What? It's either eight or thirteen.

Jeff Yeah. It's got to be one of those two.

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Davis Okay. Would someone check eight and someone check

thirteen?

Jeff Someone check eight and thirteen.

Student Ankur look, look.