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Description: Stephanie revisits generating Unifix-
cube towers 4 cubes tall from exactly one to
exactly 2 yellow cubes
Parent Tape: Early Algebra Ideas About Binomial
Expansion, Stephanie's Interview Seven of Seven
Date: 1996-04-17
Location: Union Catholic
Researcher: Professor Carolyn Maher
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| 1 | R1 | (inaudible) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Stephanie | So like what we did was - we were building towers of four. |
| 3 | R1 | Um hm. |
| 4 | Stephanie | And we started out with towers of four made of red and green - uh - well - at the time it was blue and green, but now it's red and yellow, um, with one red. |
| 5 | R2 | Okay. |
| 6 | Stephanie | And there's four ways to do that - [Stephanie builds $\left[\begin{array}{c}R \\ Y \\ Y \\ Y\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}Y \\ R \\ Y \\ Y\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}Y \\ Y \\ R \\ Y\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}Y \\ Y \\ Y \\ R\end{array}\right]$.] <br> There's four of them. |
| 7 | R2 | Um hm. Okay. |
| 8 | Stephanie | And then I was asked: For each of them, without moving the one that's red |
| 9 | R2 | Okay. |
| 10 | Stephanie | how many I could build with two reds. So like from this one - [Stephanie chooses $\left[\begin{array}{l}R \\ Y \\ Y \\ Y\end{array}\right]$ and moves the other towers to the side.] like how many I could build with two red, but one of them has to be on top. |
| 11 | R2 | Okay. |

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| 12 | Stephanie | So - [Stephanie builds.] I built them like this. [ $\left[\begin{array}{c}R \\ R \\ Y \\ Y\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}R \\ Y \\ R \\ Y\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}R \\ Y \\ Y \\ R\end{array}\right]$ ] and like that. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13 | R2 | Okay. That's all? |
| 14 | Stephanie | Yeah. That's all you can build. And the same with that one. [She chooses $\left[\begin{array}{l}Y \\ R \\ Y \\ Y\end{array}\right]$.] You can make one like that, [She builds $\left[\begin{array}{l}R \\ R \\ Y \\ Y\end{array}\right]$.] one like that [builds $\left[\begin{array}{l}Y \\ R \\ R \\ Y\end{array}\right]$ ] |
| 15 | R2 | Stephanie, what - now you've changed what you're doing when you came here? |
| 16 | Stephanie | Oh. [builds $\left[\begin{array}{l}R \\ Y \\ Y \\ R\end{array}\right]$ ] Wait a minute. [Stephanie changes the tower to $\left[\begin{array}{l}Y \\ R \\ Y \\ R\end{array}\right]$ ] <br> No, I'm still - uh - this time I have to build them all with the red, the two red, but one has to be in the second spot. |
| 17 | R2 | Oh, okay. |
| 18 | Stephanie | And for this one, it'll be the same thing, only one has to be in the third |

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|  |  | spot. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 19 | R2 | Okay. Now l've got what you're doing. |
| 20 | Stephanie | [Stephanie builds $\left[\begin{array}{l}R \\ Y \\ R \\ Y\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{l}Y \\ R \\ R \\ Y\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}Y \\ Y \\ R \\ R\end{array}\right]$. .] These three. |
| 21 | R2 | Okay. |
| 22 | Stephanie | And then the fourth one. [Stephanie moves the trios that she has built to the back of the table and moves the fourth tower into the front. She builds $\left[\begin{array}{c}R \\ Y \\ Y \\ R\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}Y \\ R \\ Y \\ R\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{l}Y \\ Y \\ R \\ R\end{array}\right]$.] And one like that [as she places the last tower onto the table]. |
| 23 | R2 | Okay. |
| 24 | Stephanie | And that's it. But, the problem is, we made um three for each one. |
| 25 | R2 | Um hm. |
| 26 | Stephanie | But the thing is that there there's like duplicates of each - like - this one [Stephanie selects $\left[\begin{array}{l}R \\ R \\ Y \\ Y\end{array}\right]$ from the first group of three] and this one [the tower with the same pattern from the second group of three. Pause.] |

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|  |  | This one [Stephanie selects $\left[\begin{array}{l}R \\ Y \\ R \\ Y\end{array}\right]$ from group one and then $\left[\begin{array}{l}Y \\ R \\ Y \\ R\end{array}\right]$ from group two.] and that one. [She continues to sort the towers into pairs. The result is: $\left[\begin{array}{l} R \\ R \\ Y \\ Y \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{l} R \\ R \\ Y \\ Y \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} R \\ Y \\ R \\ Y \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} Y \\ R \\ Y \\ R \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} R \\ Y \\ Y \\ R \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} R \\ Y \\ Y \\ R \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} Y \\ R \\ R \\ Y \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} Y \\ R \\ R \\ Y \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} R \\ Y \\ R \\ Y \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} Y \\ R \\ Y \\ R \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} Y \\ Y \\ R \\ R \end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c} Y \\ Y \\ R \\ R \end{array}\right]$ <br> Stephanie and the interviewers do not notice that she has made an error in groups two and five at this point.] So really we made six. [pause] Okay. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 27 | R2 | Okay. |
| 28 | Stephanie | So. Then the next question - [She grabs some more Unifix cubes.] |
| 29 | R1 | Could we stay here for a minute? Before the next one? |
| 30 | Stephanie | Yeah. |
| 31 | R1 | Um. So you started with towers of exactly one red. |
| 32 | Stephanie | Um hm. |
| 33 | R1 | Okay. And you moved to make towers four tall with exactly two reds and you worked with each of these [R1 points to each of the original four towers Stephanie had built.]. |
| 34 | Stephanie | Um hm. |

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Verifier(s): DeLeon, Christina
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| 35 | R1 | Okay. And you said something to Donna - you said: When you add another red, this red [R1 touches the red cube at the top of the first tower.] position stays the same. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 36 | Stephanie | Um hm. |
| 37 | R1 | And so you can only add a red in how many places? |
| 38 | Stephanie | Here. [Stephanie points to the cube just below the top (position two).] |
| 39 | R1 | [reiterating Stephanie's statement and gesture] Here. |
| 40 | Stephanie | Here [Stephanie points to the cube two below the top (position three)] or here [Stephanie points to the bottom cube.] |
| 41 | R1 | Okay. And here [R1 indicates the second tower.] you can add a red |
| 42 | Stephanie | Here. |
| 43 | R1 | Here, here, or here. [R1 points to the top, third and bottom positions.] |
| 44 | Stephanie | Um hm. And that's why you'll have three, like three |
| 45 | R1 | Okay. So you'll get |
| 46 | Stephanie | from each. |
| 47 | R1 | From each of these four you get three |
| 48 | Stephanie | Right. |
| 49 | R1 | but that gives you twelve. |
| 50 | Stephanie | Twelve [simultaneously with R1] |
| 51 | R1 | Two, four, six, eight, ten [R1 counts the pairs of towers.] |
| 52 | Stephanie | But they come in pairs of two |

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| 53 | R1 | Um. They come in pairs of two. |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |
| 54 | Stephanie | Um hm. |
| 55 | R1 | Um. So - you divide by |
| 56 | Stephanie | By two. |
| 57 | R1 | You divide by two. |
| 58 | Stephanie | to get |
| 59 | R1 | to get six |
| 60 | Stephanie | Yeah. |
| 61 | R1 | Because of the two duplicates. Okay. So that's in moving from |
| 62 | Stephanie | Um hm. |
| 63 | R1 | four things taken one at a time to four things taken two at a time. |
| 64 | Stephanie | Um hm. |
| 65 | R1 | Okay. |
| 66 | R2 | Okay. |
| 67 | R1 | So you were going to ask another question - but you were going to do <br> something? |
| 68 | Stephanie | No. I was just going to keep building. |
| 69 | R1 | So what would you do - be building next? |
| 60 | Stephanie | Um. Towers with three reds? |
| 5 |  |  |

