Parent Tape: Word problems with addition and subtraction

Date: 1989-03-21

Location: Harding Elementary School – Kenilworth, NJ

Researcher: Carolyn Maher

Transcriber(s): Makris, Ava Verifier(s): Yedman, Madeline Date Transcribed: Spring 2013

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Line	Time	Speaker	Transcript
1	0:00	R1	Let's go over those last two again.
2		Stephanie	The last two on this day?
3		R1	Yea
4		Stephanie	[Stephanie reads aloud the problem prompt] Eric washed 5 dishes. Eric washed 3 more dishes than um
5		R1	Catherine.
6		Stephanie	Catherine did. How many dishes did Catherine do?
7		Group	Five.
8		Stephanie	We put five. Now, I'm not sure if everybody was happy with that number.
9		Sean	I was. I wasn't.
10		Stephanie	Well, what number did you think was right? (talking to Sean) Well, let's find out. Let's find out!
11		Sean	Oh yeah, five plus three.
12		Stephanie	Five plus three. Oh you have a point there, five plus three is eight. But we don't know if it's subtracting either.
13	0:51	Gerardo	Wait, we have a problem.
14		Stephanie	We might have a problem! [Stephanie begins to make Unifix cube towers] Six, and oh, five, oh I was looking at this one. Five and three.
15		Sean	Five, six, seven, eight. [Sean is counting the Unifix cubes]
16		Stephanie	Let's look at one, two. She did two more. She did two I don't know, it says so right here. (meaning the Unifix cube

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			towers Stephanie is holding)
17	1:21	Sean	It says he.
18		Gerardo	It says two, two.
19		Sean	It says he.
20		Stephanie	You count up and it says two. He (Gerardo) has a point, you count up and it does say two. [Stephanie starts writing on her paper]
21		R1	Why do you think it would be two?
22		Stephanie	Well, you count up from here and you find that it's two.
23		Sean	What about this would be two? Then this would be
24		R1	Yeah, but Sean says that if you count them together you get eight. How do you decide which one to do?
25		Gerardo	Yeah, because down here is two and that would be on top (gesturing to his paper)
26		Sean	Yeah, so this should be, that should be eight.
27		Stephanie	Sean is right. [Stephanie is erasing her paper] Or it could have been
28		R1	Wait just a minute, you've go to decide together: Why would it be one or why would it be the other?
29	2:02	Stephanie	Now, you are right about the kangaroo and the rabbit. Do you think you could read this one? (speaking to Gerardo)
30		R1	How about we read, how about we read number five one more time because it seems like there are two different answers and I'm not sure which one you're all going to agree on.
31		Stephanie	[Stephanie reads aloud the problem prompt] Eric washed five dishes. Eric washed three more dishes than Catherine.

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			How many dishes did Catherine wash? So my answer is eight.
32		Gerardo	Eight, check.
33		Stephanie	Wait.
34		Gerardo	Three. Three.
35	2:43	Stephanie	Hey, it can't be three because um remember, Sean, remember we um, we were doing one and we picked the same answer, eighteen, as the question? And it was wrong. So it can't be three and it can't be eight, because that would be how many he did.
36		Sean	And it can't be eighteen.
37		Stephanie	Never, so really the first answer that we um drew was It can't be two. Let's see.
38		R1	Why can't it
39		Stephanie	It's nine, we did nine in the beginning.
40		R1	Not for this one, not for Eric.
41		Stephanie	No, not in the beginning beginning, I mean right here (pointing to the paper)
42		R1	Okay, can someone show me Eric's dishes, the dishes that Eric washed.
43			[Sean holds up his tower]
44	3:29	Gerardo	Eric washed three and five.
45		R1	Eric washed?
46		Gerardo	Eight, he washed eight dishes.
47		R1	Eight?

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Stephanie Stephanie Stephanie Okay, I'll read that one, one more time. (problem profile of the profile of th	
Eric washed 3 more dishes than Catherine. How many dishes did Catherine wash? 51	npt)
dishes did Catherine wash? Gerardo & Aaron Sean No, it can't be. Stephanie It can't be. Gerardo & Aaron Three, three. Aaron Sean Can't be! Gerardo Six? Stephanie I feel like I'm at Girl Scouts singing, 'Who stole the confrom the cookie jar?' Um, no, we're in a group Aaron We're not in Girl Scouts. Stephanie No, we're in a group, we're not in Girl Scouts. Can son remember the first answer that we put down here? Gerardo Yeah, two. Stephanie No, no that would be the (inaudible) that would be the (inaudible). Gerardo Six. R1 Where did you get a six.	es.
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Stephanie I don't know. It was a six in the beginning.	
65 R1 Yeah, but why?	
Tean, out why:	
66 Stephanie I don't think that would be right.	

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67		Gerardo	Wait, she's right.
68		Stephanie	Five, you add one from the three and you got six.
69	4:43	Gerardo	Six.
70		Stephanie	Minus one from the three and then you add that one to the five and then you get six.
71		R1	Why would you just add? What does the problem say? Read it one more time, this is really a confusing one, isn't it?
72		Stephanie	The bottom one? The bottom one? (referring to the paper)
73		R1	No, still on Eric. Because you still haven't agreed.
74		Group	Eric washed five dishes. Eric washed three more
75		Stephanie	Hey, it could be two you know and that could be a different one. But, listen.
76		Gerardo	Yeah, you could be right because this should be washed.
77		Stephanie	And that could be washed. (to Sean) You think its two?
78			[Sean shakes his head no repeatedly and then the last shake is yes]
79		Stephanie	You think its two?
80		Gerardo	Let's read the bottom one now.
81	5:23	R1	Let's decide what you really think about this one and then we can come back Why do you think its two?
82		Stephanie	Well, because if you have
83		Gerardo	Let's just quit answering and try to find one and see if its different than two.
84		Stephanie	Well, let's think. Eric washed five dishes. Eric washed three more dishes than Catherine did. Now three more, that's it,

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			right?
85		Aaron	Yeah.
86		Stephanie	But then it has to be true. Because that answer could be wrong. Now why does it have to be a two, why can't it be a different number? (inaudible) You weren't listening, were you? You weren't listening, we're on this one! (speaking to Gerardo)
87	6:05	R1	Steph, it really is okay to have two answers that are the same, I promise you that. That really is okay.
88		Gerardo	Then why don't we just keep it two?
89		Stephanie	Okay, can I
90		R1	Uh, but, I think you have to decide what you think it really is.
91		Aaron	Do you want to do it? Let's just quit it.
92		Stephanie	Do you think it's two? Gerardo, do you think the next answer is two?
93		Gerardo	No, I don't. I think it might be six. I think you were right when you did that other one.
94		Stephanie	No, I mean this one. Do you think that one