Buying books

Annotation

Toni solves this division problem by using known multiplication facts. She successfully combines a trial and error approach with known x 3 facts to reach a solution and can explain her thinking.

Problem: Buying books

The teacher shows this problem to the student and reads it with her as required:

If each book costs $3, how many books can I buy for $21?

Student response

Toni:	It’s seven books.
Teacher:	Tell me how you did that.
Toni:	I used my timetables. I know that four books would be $12 because 4 x 3 is 12 and 6 books would be 18 because that’s another 2 x 3. That’s not quite enough. One more book or just $3 more takes it to $21. So that’s seven books altogether.
Teacher:	Tell me why you did it that way.
Toni:	I didn’t know the answer to start with so I tried with times tables I knew. I didn’t know what else to do. When I tried 6 books I could see I was close and so it was just one more book or one more lot of 3. I could see that then.