

More dinosaurs

Annotation

Abbey solves this problem by counting on through a decade whilst systematically tracking on her fingers.

Problem: More dinosaurs

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

Max had 15 dinosaurs and Alice had 8. How many did they have altogether?

Student response

Abbey: They had 23 dinosaurs altogether.

Teacher: Tell me how you did that.

Abbey: Max had 15 and I said, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and counted on my fingers so I could know I'd done 8.

Teacher: What do you know that helped you?

Abbey: I can count up from the biggest number.

Teacher: Tell me why you did it that way.

Abbey: Because I know that I don't have to count them all and it's like 15 and 8 more so you count them on.

Teacher: How would you record that?

Abbey: There were 15 to start with, plus 8 more is 23.

$$15 + 8 = 23$$