

Trusting the Count

Annotation

Andrew solves the problem by counting on. It is evident that he has learned to trust the count (cardinality) as he recognises that he does not have to count from 1.

Problem: Trusting the count

The teacher places a group of counters in each of the student's hands and poses this problem:

You have 7 counters in this hand and 4 counters in this hand. How many counters do you have altogether?



Student response

Andrew: It's 11.

Teacher: Tell me how you did that.

Andrew: I had 7 and counted on, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Teacher: What do you know that helped you?

Andrew: Well, I know how to count on from 7.

Teacher: Tell me why you did it that way.

Andrew: Because it is faster than counting everything.

Teacher: How would you record that?

Andrew: Well like what I did. Like this.

$$7 + 4 = 11$$