Adding dinosaurs

Annotation

Jo is able to partition a single digit into smaller parts. She makes it clear that her choice of partition is deliberate to achieve a tidy number to work with. Jo uses the term 'tidy number' to describe the decade. Jo illustrates her thinking process with an addition equation although the way she writes it is technically incorrect.

Problem: Adding dinosaurs

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

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

Student response

Jo: Twenty three.

Teacher: Tell me how you did that.

Jo: I added 5 to make 20 and then I added another 3 and that makes 23.

Teacher: What do you know that helped you?

Jo: I know that 8 is made up of a 5 and a 3 and I know 15 and 5 is 20 and that's a tidy number. It makes it easy.

Teacher: How would you record that?

Jo: Well I started at 15, which is Max, I plussed five then plussed three, which makes 23, so like this.

$$15 + 5 = 20 + 3 = 23$$