

Matchstick rulers

Annotation

Dylan can create and use a simple measurement scale. He understands that he is measuring in matchstick lengths and that he must begin measuring from the start of the first matchstick, where he has correctly marked 0, and not the end point of the ruler. Dylan's answer of $3\frac{1}{2}$ matchsticks for measuring the black strips shows that he understands that a unit can be partitioned.

Problem: Matchstick rulers

The teacher asks the student to make a matchstick ruler and shows the student two coloured cardboard strips. Then the teacher asks:

Could you use your ruler to measure how many matchsticks long these two strips are?

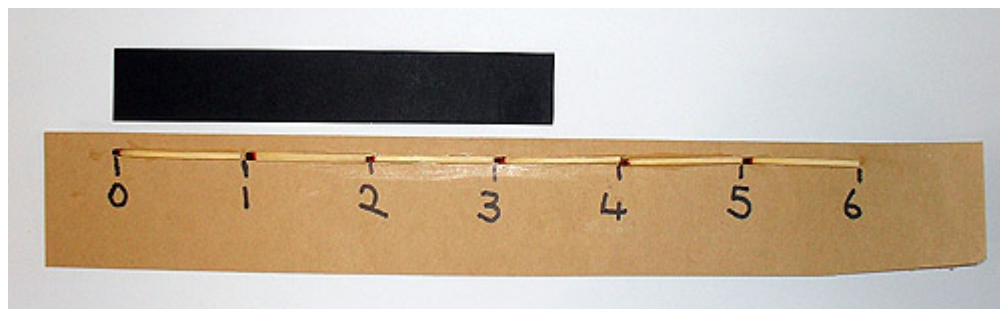
Student Response

Dylan lines up his matchstick ruler and starts measuring from the start of the first matchstick, which he has marked as 0.



Dylan: It is 5 matchsticks.

Then Dylan measures the second strip.



Dylan: This one is $3\frac{1}{2}$ matchsticks.