## **Posing the Tasks**

A vet recommends the following diet for an undernourished puppy: "The puppy is to finish a 26kg bag of food over the first 4 weeks but the feed is to increase by 3kg each week."

## Task 1

Work out the amount of food that the puppy needs for each of the first four weeks.



If the puppy's feed continues to increase by 3kg per week, how much food is required for week 15?



10 minutes





5 minutes

how

many weeks will

this dog need to

be on the diet?

## Reflecting on the Learning

Students used multiple approaches to the problem, most preferred to use pen and paper, some used a peg board, more pupils used colour and were visual in how they made tables of the pattern, others made graphs. Some students didn't give up and kept at it until they came up with an answer while others opted out earlier. We realised through doing this lesson that students' literacy skills had a serious impact

Dogs Do

**Patterns** 

Topic: Algebra & Patterns Students will get the opportunity to explore different characteristics of patterns by looking at a problem drawn from everyday reality.

on their ability to problem solve. When students were asked to explain their reasoning many found it very difficult. We felt as teachers that we underestimate students ability to problem solve and we often don't give them the freedom to do so in the classroom. When they are given the freedom to problem solve the results are very positive and liberating for the students and they even forget that this is "maths" and treat it as a challenge that is of interest to them.





Developed by Marian Wallis, Yvonne O'Keeffe, Padraig Quane and Lillian Waters with thanks to Enda O'Connell





## Maths Counts 2017 Engaging teachers in Lesson Study

Maynooth University, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March 2017



