Count the Sweets

Topic: Algebra
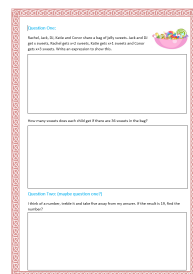Forming and solving equations from word problems.

Year Group: 1st Year
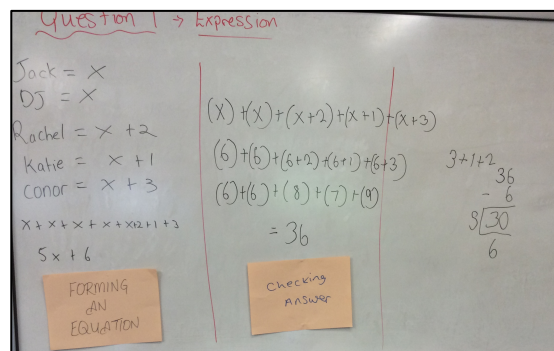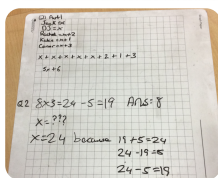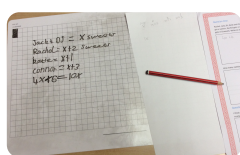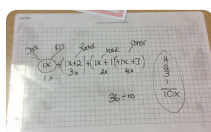**Level: Mixed Ability**

Presenting the Problem

Rachel, Jack, DJ, Katie and Conor share a bag of jelly sweets. Jack and DJ get x sweets, Rachel gets x+2 sweets, Katie gets x+1 sweets and Conor gets x+3 sweets. Write an expression to show this. How many sweets does each child get if there are 36 sweets in the bag?

Flow of the Lesson

| Prior Knowledge & Posing the Task 10 minutes | Students working on the problem 10 minutes | Presentation of Solutions & Ceardaíocht 20 minutes | Summing up & Reflection 5 minutes |

Reflecting on the Learning

The students worked well in their groups and started into the task with out hesitation. There was evidence of misconceptions in student work including mixing up x^2 and $2x$. Many students used number and trial and error to work out their solution. During *Ceardaíocht* students were encouraged to explain their thinking. They found the lesson to be a very positive experience. Students were comfortable discussing their approaches and identified their preferred approach to solving the problem.
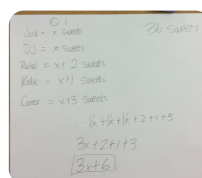
Developed by Sheelagh O' Malley and Kate Stack, with thanks to Tricia Nolan MDT and the students of Presentation SS, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.