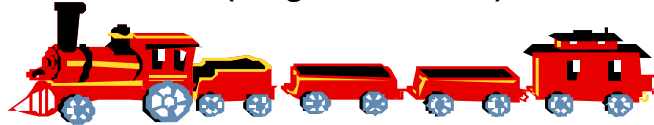


TEACHER REFLECTION
Jan (3rd-grade teacher)



I tried the train problem today. I gave each student 3 unifix cubes and asked them to find all of the combinations that they could make. This was not a problem at all. I asked them to record their answers. Some of the children took out their crayons and colored their answers. A couple of them wrote out the colors. Anthony decided to write only the letter of each color. Some of the students did not put the combinations in any order. This seemed to confuse them when they recorded their data. Jordan told how he started with one color and made all of the combinations and then went to the next color. I then asked if there were a way to record this using numbers. Ashley went right to work. She assigned each color a number and formed her combinations:

123 132 213 231 312 321

What I found surprising was when I first started the assignment, I asked how many combinations they thought they could make and most said 6 before even trying. Something is familiar.