## Better Buy

Approach: One to one
Focus: Value for money (cost per unit).
Resources: 100 g Pebbles labelled with price $\$ 1.30 ; 50 \mathrm{~g}$
Pebbles labelled with price 60 ¢ $; 20 \mathrm{~g}$ Pebbles labelled with price 30¢.
Questions/instructions:
Place the 100 g and 50 g boxes of Pebbles in front of the student.

In this activity you will be using some boxes of Pebbles. The big box holds 100 grams of Pebbles and costs $\$ 1.30$. The smaller box holds 50 grams
 of Pebbles and costs 60 cents.

1. Which one is the better value for
money?
PROMPT Which box would give you more
\% responses 2001 ('97) 2001 ('97) year 4 year 8

Pebbles for the money?

$$
50 \mathrm{~g} \text { box } 64(68) 83(82)
$$

2. Why is that box better value for money?
3. How do you know that?

$$
\begin{array}{rlll}
\text { correct, clear explanation } & 13(10) & 62(65) \\
\text { on right track but vague } & 9(14) & 10(13)
\end{array}
$$

Place the 20 g box of Pebbles in front of the student.
4. This box costs 30 cents. Which is the better buy -this 20 g box or this 100 g ?

$$
100 \mathrm{~g} \text { box } \quad 76(78)
$$

## Point to the 20 g box.

6. If I wanted 100 g of Pebbles, how many of these boxes would I need?

$$
5 \quad \text { • } 86(90)
$$

7. How did you work that out?

$$
\text { correct and clear • } 80(83)
$$

## Commentary

The results show substantial progress from year 4 to year 8 , especially in ability to justify the choice made, with little change from 1997 to 2001 at either level.

