| Categories of Description | Child's response - example |
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| 1 - No expressed meaning and / or purpose of numeral. | Extract related to car number plate Interviewer: OK, so why are those numbers on the car? Child: 'cause it's lovely to do drawing on cars. |
| 2 - Description of actions associated with the context and object, rather than number-focused meaning of numeral | Extract related to size label on t-shirt showing ' $\mathbf{6}$ years’ Interviewer: Why is that there, do you think on the $T$ shirt, that 6 ? Child: Because you have to wear it. |
| 3 - Meaning and / or purpose of numeral misaligned with object and context. | Extract related to poster showing date: 20 May Interviewer: And that one [pointing to the 20]? <br> Child: Uh, it's 20. There might be 20 things in it or if it's a book or something, there's 20 pages. |
| 4 - Meaning and / or purpose of numeral linked to the object but misaligned with context. | Extract related to $£ 1$ sticker on bag of sweets Interviewer: Why is that number on the candy, do you think? Child: Because there's a lot. |
| 5 - Recognition that the numeral has a meaning and / or purpose, but the specific communicative message of the numeral not expressed. | Extract related to bus number Interviewer: So, why is that 6 there on the bus? Child: Because that's the number of it. |
| 6 - Meaning and / or purpose not fully expressed but recognition of a specific communicative message in line with culturally shared rules. | Extract related to size label on t-shirt showing "size 9" Interviewer: Why is that number there on your T shirt? Child: So you can see if it's big, or small or medium. |
| 7a - Fully expressed meaning and / or purpose implicitly drawn from symbol (e.g., £) accompanying numeral. | Extract related to $£ 1$ sticker on bag of sweets Interviewer: What does that number 1 mean on that bag? Child: Because there's nothing else, it might be one pound. |
| 7b - Fully expressed meaning and / or purpose of numeral in line with culturally shared rules. | Extract related to number on LEGO box Interviewer: So, what does that mean, that there? Child: There's 25 pieces? |
| 8 - Fully expressed meaning and / or purpose of numeral, in line with culturally shared rules, with examples provided. | Extract related to numerals on alarm clock Child: There's numbers round it, because the hands can get to them to tell you what time it is...for instance, if the hand is at 12 o'clock, it's 12 . o'clock, lunch time. |

