

**ZMATH 1998f.04446**

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**Reasoning about Structure and Function: Children's Conceptions of Gears.**

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Elementary school children were interviewed about how gears move on a gearboard and how they work in commonplace machines. Children's reasoning became more general, formal, and mathematical as problem complexity increased, suggesting that mathematical forms of reason may develop when they provide a clear advantage over simple causal generalizations. (ERIC)

*Classification:* M52

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