Student Pre-Assessment for K-1

You are to ask each of your students to respond to the attached problems prior to our first class meeting. Because many of your children are very unlikely to be able to write "how do they know" you will need to observe individuals in small groups to be able to determine how they each are figuring our "how many dogs" and then make notes of your observations. Even if children are not "rationale counters" and are not using one-to-one correspondence, that is still good information to have. Just note what each child is doing. If they are capable of writing the numeral below each "dog pen" that's great. Let them try - again, good information to have. This is considered a formative assessment so please do not "tell" students what to write. Let's just see what they are capable of doing with the task. (Before you start, make sure to tell the children that the animals in the pictures are dogs. Or you could simply just call them animals.)

If you do not have your own classroom, please choose a K-1 classroom teacher (who is not participating in the professional development) with whom you can work particularly close and administer the task to his or her students.

Finally, please sort the student work into 3 categories: 1. Students who 'get it'; 2. Students who don't 'get it'; and 3. Students you are not sure about – you need more information to determine their understanding. Write a couple of sentences about why you placed the work in each category - in other words, why does the work in one "pile" illustrate students who "get it". So you should have 3 short paragraphs, one for each category. Bring the sorted student work and your observational notes as well as the 3 paragraphs to the first class.