



Fun with Measuring

Your child was born to measure – Large and small, big and little tall and short are all ways to measure. You and your child can explore the world of measurement doing everyday things – in your home, in the kitchen, and in the park. Try the suggestions with your child and you will help her develop important math skills.

INFANT:

- Let your infant play with safe kitchen objects such as plastic containers, measuring cups, spoons, bowls or metal pots. Help your infant place objects inside one another or stack the objects. Talk with your child about what you are doing: "Look, this bowl fits inside the metal pot." "Oops! That cup is too big to fit inside. Let's see if we can find one that it will fit inside."
- When you are feeding your baby say, "We have a full bowl of applesauce." Then midway through say, "Now our bowl of applesauce is half full." At the end say, "Our bowl is empty! All of the applesauce is in your tummy!"

TODDLER:

- Using a sprinkler (keep the spray low so that it is about the same height as your child). Ask your toddler, Can you put your foot in the water? Can you put your hand in the water? Can you jump through the water?
- Let your child use teaspoons and measuring cups to dish out snacks.
- During bath time, let your child play with spoons, cups, and containers. Let your child fill the containers with water using the cups and spoons. As she plays, ask questions: "Which cup fills the container the fastest? Why?"

PRESCHOOLERS:

- Help your child use measurement in everyday settings. Arrange different objects such as books, boxes, and cans by size. Talk about how they are arranged using comparison words like taller, shorter, wider, heaviest, more, less, about the same.
- Measure objects in unconventional ways. Use a line of Goldfish crackers to measure a spoon and stack blocks beside your child to see how many blocks tall she is.
- Compare the weight of two objects by holding one in each hand. Can you tell which is heavier? Lighter?
- Play the Guess and Measure Game. Ask questions, such as: "How many hands tall is this jar?" "Which is heavier, your coat or your boot?" "How many steps to the car?" Let your child guess. Then, find out the answer together.
- Play timing games: "How many times can you count to 10 before we are first in line?" "How long can you stand on one leg?"