

Measure Me

Let's measure and compare! Children will explore how tall or long things are using simple tools and materials.

STEM Focus: Mathematics

Experiences Your Children Will Have

- Exploring tools to measure people and objects.
- Comparing sizes (tall, short, long)

Vocabulary

- Measure: To find out how big, tall, or long something is
- Measuring tool: Something that is used to measure
- Tall/Short: How high or low something is
- Long/Short: How far something stretches from end to end

Materials

- Yarn or string
- Scissors
- Tape, paper, and pencils for labeling
- Optional: A ruler or measuring tape

Beginning

- Tell your child, *Today we are going to measure how big we are and how big other things are!*
- Use yarn to measure your child from head to toe. Tape the yarn to a wall and label it.
- Say, This shows how tall you are!
- Invite your child to find things to measure around the house.

Middle

- Encourage your child to choose objects to measure.
- Help them measure using yarn, ruler, and/or measuring tape.
- Use the materials alongside your child and imitate how they use them.
- Cut yarn to match the size of each object and tape each piece to the wall.
- Use the vocabulary words intentionally while interacting with your child.

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- Talk about what they are doing. You might say, *This one is longer than the one you measured before, or, You're putting the yarn all the way across the table and then cutting it off at the end.*
- Use the specific strategies below, depending on your child's age:
 - Infants and toddlers may begin to explore the materials by touching, grasping, mouthing, and noticing which things are big and which things are small. You can support your child by describing: *The couch is big; Your toy car is small.*
 - Preschoolers may help measure and compare objects. You can support your child by asking questions: *Which one is longer?; Can you find something taller?*
 - School-age children may measure using tools and record their results. You can support your child by encouraging thinking: *How long is it?; How would you order them from shortest to longest?*

End

- As you notice your child begin to lose interest, give them a warning that you are going to put the materials away. You might say, *In a few moments we are going to clean up. You can try out one more idea with your objects.*
- Encourage your child to help you clean up the materials and put them away together.

Additional Learning

- Use different standard measuring tools (yardstick, fabric measuring tape) or non-standard units (shoes, spoons, feet).
- Measure different things outside.