

Measurement

Measurement is determining the size, amount, or degree of something. For example, children can measure a block in many ways; height, weight, length, and even temperature. The preschool years are the time children become familiar with important concepts like amount (more/less), length, distance, size, weight, volume, and time. Understanding these concepts is fundamental to later math success.

Ideas to try

What does it weigh? Using a standard kitchen scale, have children weigh common household objects (e.g., blocks, crayons, jars, books, rocks, feathers, toy trucks, etc.). Keep track of the weights on a large sheet of paper. Afterwards, have children tell you which items were heavier and which were lighter. Give children two different items and have them guess which is heavier. Then have them weigh both items to find out.



Sponge toss: Outside on a warm day, allow children to use wet sponges to see how far they can toss the sponges. Have them count their steps to measure how far they tossed the sponge. Children can compare the distance they can toss different sizes of wet sponges. Children can squeeze out most of the water and see how that affects how far the sponges go when tossed. Have them keep track of the distances on a large sheet of paper.



How much does it hold? Collect empty jars of various sizes and shapes. Let children explore and compare how much water each container holds by pouring water from one jar to another. Have them keep track of which jars hold the most water and which ones hold the least.

How many steps? Have children walk to various parts of the home or an outside play area. Have them count their steps as they go. Challenge the children to try walking with shorter steps compared to longer steps. Younger children may need help counting.

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