

Size

By the time they enter kindergarten, teachers will expect children to be able to compare objects based on their **size**, such as smallest-largest, longest-shortest, tallest-shortest, and biggest-littlest. Learning about size will help children understand terms like more than or less than, or small numbers versus big numbers. Young children need lots of practice with these words. They often have to see, touch and compare items to actually figure out which ones are smaller (or larger) than the others.



Ideas to try

Having a Ball: Have children collect a number of balls from around the home. Ask them to identify the largest ball and the smallest ball. Have them put the balls in order from the smallest to the largest. Do the same with pencils but have them pick out the shortest and longest, then put them in order from smallest to longest.

Can You Find? First, find something small in a room. Next, ask children to find something smaller. Then ask them to find something bigger in the room. On neighborhood walks, have them find small, large, short, or tall things that they see. They might see a small car and then a big one, a short tree and a very tall one, a small dog and big dog, and so on. Use words like small, smaller, smallest, big, bigger, and biggest to increase children's vocabulary.

Let Your Body Try It: Have children use their bodies to explore size words. Ask them to take a small step, then have them take a long step. Have them stretch up as tall as they can and then bend down as small as they can. Ask them to jump as long as they can then as short as they can. Have them stretch out their hands as wide (far apart) as they can, then move their hands as close together as they can.

Big Hands, Little Hands: Trace the hands of all members of your family onto separate sheets of paper. Give the handprints to children and have them find the smallest handprint and the largest handprint. Help them put the handprints in order from smallest to largest.



Sorting Leaves: Give children a small sack and go on a walk around the neighborhood. Have them collect leaves of different sizes. When you get home, have them find the smallest and largest leaves. Have them compare the sizes of all of the leaves they found.

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