



Big, Bigger, Biggest: Measuring

Your child wants to know where he fits into the world! Learning how to make comparisons will help him understand the relationship between two things or groups of things as he begins to develop his measurement skills. These early comparisons will lead to meaningful learning about math through his everyday experiences.

- Like everything else, your baby uses her senses to learn that some things are smaller and some things are bigger. Let her see and touch lots of objects of different sizes.
- Talk about how your child “measures up.” Mark his height on his own growth chart or make a pencil mark on a doorframe. Measure other family members too. Help your child compare his height to previous measurements and to other family members. Making comparisons will help him later develop and successfully use measurement skills.
- Help your child notice things that are the *same* and *different*: *You have two blocks that are different sizes. This block is big and this one is small. But your blocks are the same color. Both blocks are yellow!*
- Help your toddler make comparisons and use size and quantity words: *Which bowl is bigger—this one or that one? Or: Is that cup empty or full?*
- Playing with nesting bowls and cups can help your child to see the relationship between different-sized objects.
- On the playground, make comparisons with your child as he uses the equipment: *You are up so high at the top of the slide. Wheee! Now you are down low at the bottom!*

- On a nature walk, gather stones, leaves, or sticks. Compare what you pick up. Who found the biggest stone? Which is the longest stick? Place the objects side by side and let your child make the comparison.
- Provide opportunities to fill containers of different sizes. Talk to your child about which containers will hold more (sand, water, leaves) and which containers will hold less. Let her fill, dump, and explore.
- Your child will enjoy getting physical to make comparisons. Challenge her to see who can run the farthest, jump the highest, or smile the biggest.