

Read and Play with Math

Measurement



Math skills are essential for kids to be successful in school and life.

Measurement is one of the nine Big Ideas put forth by Erikson Institute's Early Math Collaborative that young kids need to learn. Here is Erikson's website for more great math activities and information: <https://bit.ly/30wTbgd>

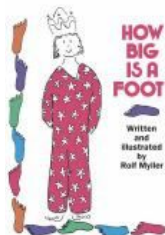
Even very young children have a basic understanding of size. **Measurement** is any process that produces a quantitative description of an attribute, such as length, circumference, weight, temperature, volume, or number.

Read and Talk



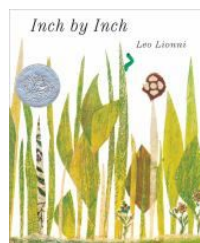
Actual Size. By Steve Jenkins (Youth Easy Nonfiction 591.41J)

It's one thing to read that an anteater's tongue is 2 feet long, or that the eye of a giant squid has a diameter of 12 inches, but *Actual Size* shows you the REAL size of animals and their body parts. Put your and your little one's hands on the gorilla's hand in the book. How do they compare?



How Big Is a Foot? By Rolf Myller (Youth Picture Book MYL)

Thrown in jail because the bed he made for the Queen is too small, an apprentice comes up with a more accurate way of measuring size. Trace your child's body on a piece of butcher paper and have them measure their length and width with shoes that belong to different members of your family. Talk about your observations.



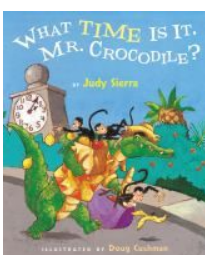
Inch By Inch. By Leo Lionni (Youth Picture Books LIO)

To keep from being eaten, an inchworm measures a robin's tail, a flamingo's neck, a toucan's beak, a heron's legs, and a nightingale's song. Using an inch long piece of yarn, measure your toys. How tall is your stuffed animal, how long is your train?



Measuring Masters Series. By Martha E. H. Rustad (Youth Easy Nonfiction)

Titles include *Measuring Weight*, *Measuring Length*, *Measuring Temperature*, *Measuring Time*, and *Measuring Volume*. Talk about the different tools we use to measure and how they are useful.



What Time Is It, Mr. Crocodile? By Judy Sierra (Youth Picture Books SIE)

Mr. Crocodile's plans to catch and eat some pesky monkeys do not work out and he becomes friends with them instead. What would you like to do today? Make a plan just like Mr. Crocodile!

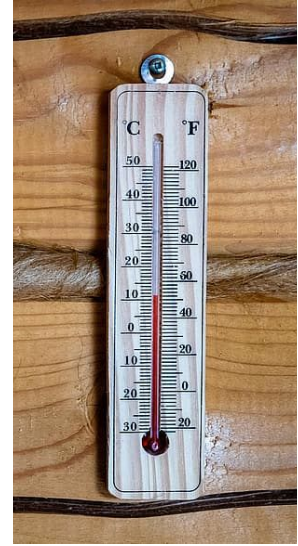
Play

Using measuring tools is so much fun!



Bake some cookies! Baking and cooking are great opportunities to practice measuring weight, volume, and time.

Is it warm enough to wear shorts to the park? Let's check the thermometer!



When we don't have our measurement tools, we try to get an approximate number. In other words, we estimate. Estimation is considered a higher level skill, an important one we use all the time.

To practice estimation, get out some toys and have your child put them in order from longest to shortest just by looking at them. Then check with a ruler.

