



# Smart Cookie Club

S T A Y · P L A Y · L E A R N

## Size Wise

### Measurement Activity Pack

Young children apply early concepts of measurement in many of their everyday activities. They compare sizes of toys and portions of food, their own height to another's, and the lengths of toys and trains. In exploring ways of comparing, toddlers and preschoolers may use non-standard measurement tools, such as hands and fingers to estimate length, blocks or squares for area, and sand and water for capacity.

They also begin to develop the vocabulary of measurement and comparison, using terms such as *longer*, *shorter*, *taller*, *bigger*, *smaller*, *wider*, *heavier*, and *lighter*. They even begin to grapple with time with the ever-useful naptime stall, "two more minutes!". Although they may not yet understand the concept of a minute, they are understanding that 'more' and 'minutes' put together creates a delay!

Eventually your child's sense of measurement will develop to include new skills. They will build on their abilities to compare and learn to order three or more objects, eventually beginning to understand that objects can be measured in different ways, depending on the attribute of interest.

Measurement applies some of the earliest mathematics that children learn, and there are many informal and formal opportunities to support this development. In play, measurement is already very meaningful, particularly around fairness. 'He got more than me!', 'She got the bigger dinosaur so I should get two little dinosaurs!' These assertions all show a strong awareness of measurement.

There are many ways that parents and caregivers can support children's understanding at home. Observing children throughout the day and scaffolding deeper conversations about measurement is a great place to start. Supporting rich conversations on relatable topics will help your child to mathematize their thinking and expand their measurement vocabulary.

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**Click the titles below to follow the circle-time links**

**[Hello Song \\*\(new\)](#)**

**[Going Fishing Game](#)**

**[Measure with Marigold](#)**

**[Goldilocks & The Three Bears \(by: Kiddo Stories\)](#)**

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## Introduce the topic by measuring your favourite toys with blocks!

**Materials Needed:** Your child's favourite larger toys (cars, animals, dolls, etc.), counting blocks (If you don't have counting blocks, use bottle caps, wine corks, or a set of like-sized rocks).

### Activity Description:

1. Invite your child to collect one of their favourite larger sized toys which you will measure together.
2. Line the counting blocks in a row alongside the toy to match the length of the toy.
3. Count how many blocks you have used to make the toy's length.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 with a different toy. Was it smaller, larger or the same size?

Extend the activity by using your blocks to measure your own body parts (such as your arm), or your the height/length of your entire body. Older children can begin to record their results in a simple chart form.

### Questions and conversation during this activity:

- "How many blocks do you think it will take to make the length of this alligator?"
- "How can you tell this toy is longer or shorter than the other toy?"
- "Let's try measuring the width. What will be the difference between the width and the length?"

**Keep in mind your child's skill level and make sure to set them up for success while challenging their abilities. Younger children will not yet have the higher thinking order needed to make size representation predictions, but will be amazed to see representations of themselves and enjoy discussing how "big" they are compared to other things in the world around them.**



## Measuring Apple Peels (Literacy)

**Materials Needed:** Apple peel (or other item that interests your child such as a book or a worm), measuring tape, chalk.

### Activity Description:

Have you ever peeled an apple in one big, long peel?

1. Peel the apple in a circular motion.
2. Roll out the measuring tape (tape or lock it into place for safety reasons.) Soft measuring tapes, often found in sewing kits, work best with young children.
3. Invite your child to help you measure the length of the peel.

For **younger children**, or if your child isn't recognizing numbers yet, try comparing sizes instead. "Which is the biggest/smallest?"



## Does It Fit? (Language):

**Materials Needed:** Container, toys.

### Activity Description:

1. Invite your child to gather 10 toys.
2. Test and experiment with the size of each toy by trying to fit it inside of a container.
3. Model the action while using measurable language. For example; "I wonder if the block will fit into this container... No, it is too wide to fit into this container."

**Older children** can use multiple containers of varying sizes.



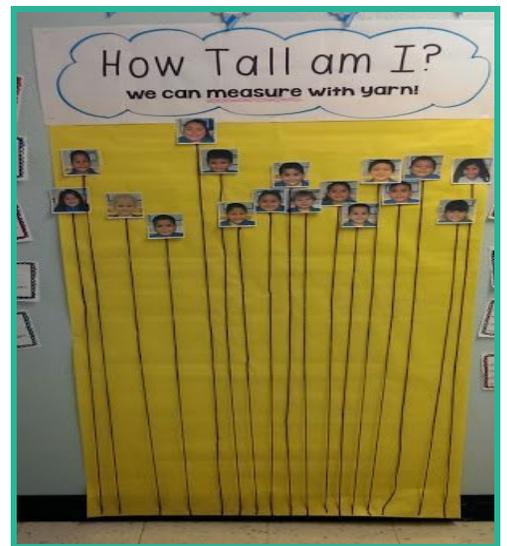
## How Tall Am I (Language):

**Materials Needed:** Pencil, masking tape, label or sticker.

### Activity Description:

1. Measure each family member by marking with a pencil or piece of masking tape above their head as they stand against a wall.
2. Place a label with the person's photo and/or name on their height marker.
3. Compare and discuss the differences and similarities. Over time, continue to mark your child's height so they are able to see their growth in perspective.

**Older children** will be able to help measure and mark, while **younger children** may not yet be as involved. Doing this activity with younger children will create a nice timeline which you can look back on when your child is a bit older.

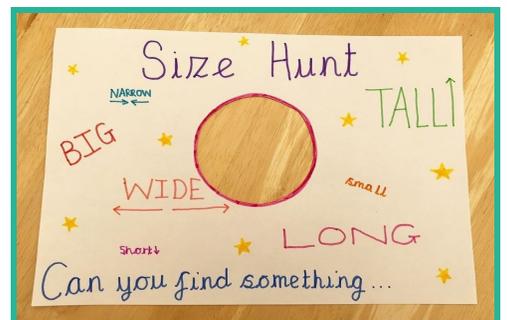


## Size Hunt (Language):

**Materials Needed:** NONE!

### Activity Description:

1. Go on a size hunt with your child, looking for items in your home, backyard or community.
2. Use the language of size (big, small, long, short, wide, narrow) when pointing out objects to your child. "Let's see if we can find a very short tree and a very, very tall tree on our walk today!"



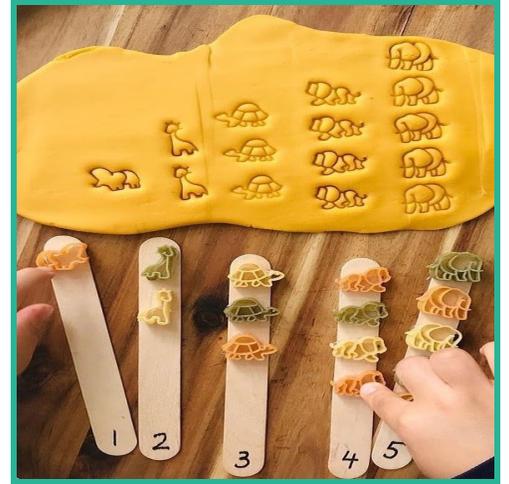
## Measuring Number Lines (Math)

**Materials Needed:** Counters (I used dried animal pasta), glue, popsicle sticks, playdough.

### Activity Description:

1. Glue your counters in a line onto your popsicle sticks. Make some of your sticks with long lines, and others with short lines.
2. Invite your child to press the sticks into the playdough to make short and long lines.
3. Talk about and describe the prints your child makes in the playdough. For example, "Wow that is a long line! That looks like it could be the longest!".

**Older children** can try ordering their stick prints from longest to shortest or vice versa.



## Matching Lids and Containers (Math)

**Materials Needed:** Varied sized tupperware containers and their matching lids.

### Activity Description:

1. Gather your tupperware, making sure each container has a matching lid.
2. Invite your child to sort through the different sizes and shapes of containers to find the matching lids!



## Seriating Paper Towel Roll People (Math)

**Materials Needed:** Paper towel rolls (or toilet paper rolls), markers, scissors.

### Activity Description:

1. Use your scissors to cut the paper towel rolls into different lengths.
2. Draw faces or designs on the rolls using your markers.
3. Invite your child to seriate the roll family, ordering from shortest to tallest or vice versa.

If you don't have the materials on hand, try looking around your home for other items you could order by size such as screwdrivers, measuring cups, spoons or even the family shoe collection.



## Size Sorting Slot Box (Fine Motor)

**Materials Needed:** Box, safety knife or scissors, different sized bottle lids (or use other toys you may have at home, or try cutting circles out of thicker cardboard box). Using coloured tape is optional.

### Activity Description:

1. Trace the bottle lid edges onto your box.

2. Cut out the rectangles from your box using your safety knife or scissors, making sure the lids will fit into the corresponding slots.
3. Invite your child to sort and match the sizes while you use the language of size to comment on their actions. "You've got the smallest cap. It fits into the shortest slot." Open your box to retrieve your lids and repeat!

**For younger children,** label the lids and slots with coloured tape. This will help to match and sort their lid sizes successfully.



## Rolling Playdough (Sensory)

**Materials Needed:** Playdough ([print our simple recipe here](#)).

### Activity Description:

1. Invite your child to roll the playdough back and forth between their hand and the table. As the playdough rolls it will stretch out into a long line.
2. Have a competition to see who can make the longest/shortest or most narrow/wide line of playdough as you use the language of size.



## Weighing Toys and Natural Materials (Science)

**Materials Needed:** Balancing scales, toys or natural items such as rocks or pinecones or baking goods.

**If you don't have a** balancing scale at home, use a food or washroom scale, or make your own with [these simple instructions](#)!

### Activity Description:

1. Invite your child to collect some toys, rocks or pinecones.
2. Make predictions and guess which toy will be heavier.
3. Experiment and explore the results of heavy and light using your scales.

**Older children** can also be their own human scale. Simply ask your child to stretch their arms out on either side of their body. Place one object in either hand and ask them which item is heavier or lighter.



## Scribble Time (Creative):

**Materials Needed:** Paper, markers or crayons or pencils, timer.

### Activity Description:



1. Talk about time with your child.
2. Set a timer for 1 minute.
3. Invite your child to start to scribble on their paper, telling them that when the timer sounds, they will need to stop scribbling. Practice making curves, lines, corners and shapes until the timer sounds, then quickly put down your marker.
4. Repeat this activity again and again to help your child begin to understand the concept of time.

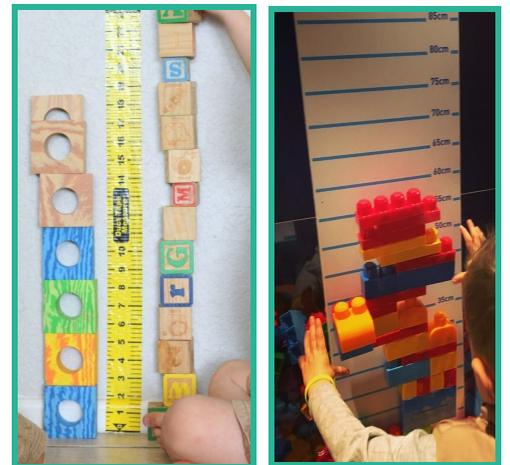


## How Tall Can You Build It? (Building):

**Materials Needed:** Building blocks, large print height measuring tape (or paper and markers to make your own).

**Activity Description:** If you don't have a large print height measuring tape, you can easily make your own by making evenly spaced marks on a piece of paper, labelling each mark with a number increasing from the bottom to the top.

1. Attach your height measuring tape to a vertical surface which your child can build against.
2. Challenge your child to build a tall tower. "How tall can you build it?". "How high is it now?".
3. Point to the marks and numbers on the measuring tape and model the thought process around those basic measuring techniques.



## Lemonade Stand (Dramatic Play):

Set up a lemonade stand outside for your child to explore containment, volume while practicing and increasing their coordination and control in a relaxed and fun way.

- **Try pouring to the Lines** - Use tape to make a fill line on your container or cup. Invite your child to fill the vessel to the marked lines (according to customer orders). If you aren't doing this activity outside, place a large sensory bin underneath the pouring station, and plan for spills as your child develops the muscles and coordination to control those motor movements.
- **Explore more or less** - Compare a little bit of water in a large container to a lot of water in a small container. Which one has more? Pour the water from the small container to the large container to show how the size of the vessel changes the appearance of volume, although it remains the same.



If you're not up for the spills and splashes of a water activity, use pom poms and a spoon instead.

- **Matching cups and volume to customers** - Which cup will the smallest customer get? How much lemonade will you give to the tallest customer?
- When you're ordering from your child's lemonade stand, don't forget to **use the language of measurement**. Think of ordering from starbucks... "I would like a tall lemonade in a short cup with just a small amount of sugar, please."



## Measuring With Our Feet (Gross Motor - Movement)

**Materials Needed:** NONE!

### Activity Description:

1. Invite your child to walk across the room from one wall to the other.
2. As they walk, placing one foot directly in front of the other, count each of their steps and encourage them to count along with you. "How many steps wide is this room?" "Let's measure the yard, the park or your bedroom!"



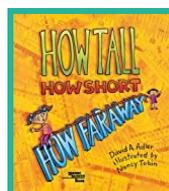
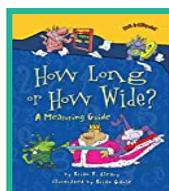
**Older children** can try measuring using their hands or fingers as well!

## Book Recommendations: (click the titles below to follow the Amazon links)

[How tall, How short, How far - by: Holiday House](#)

[Actual Size - by: Steve Jenkins](#)

[How Long or How Wide - By: Millbrook Press](#)



**We hope you have enjoyed these activities!**

**Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions and feel free to share and tag us in your photos and stories!**

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**LEARNING THROUGH PLAY WITH**  
*Smart Cookie Club*  
**EVERY DAY!**