



Playing with Measurement

Measuring involves comparing and figuring out how long or short something is, how much something weighs, or how much something weighs, or how long it takes to do something.

Some Books

The Water Hole, by Graeme Base

Actual Size, by Steve Jenkins

Guess How Much I Love You, by Sam McBratney

One, Some, Many, by Marthe Jocelyn

10 Minutes Till Bedtime, by Peggy Rathmann

The Grouchy Ladybug, by Eric Carle

Some Activities

1. Practice measuring things around your house. Use lots of different objects to measure things: blocks, string, socks, etc. "Our table is 12 forks long and 8 forks wide!" This shows your child that inches, feet, metrics, etc. are only one way to measure things.
2. Cooking with your child involves lots of measuring. Allow your child to spoon flour into a measuring cup, or pour the liquid into the batter, or use teaspoons.
3. Talk about time with your child. "The store is about 10 miles away. It should take us about 15 minutes to get there. Let's look at the clock and see how long it takes." Or, "Do you think you can put your socks on by the time the pancakes are done? Let's see which takes longer."
4. Talk to your child about their day in ways that help them think of time and sequence. At bedtime, you can talk about what happened after breakfast, what was the *first* thing they did when they went outside (and *second*, etc.), what happened before dinner.
5. Sharing things help children understand pieces and wholes, or what they will later learn about fractions. Cutting up pizzas or a tray of brownies can help kids understand dividing a whole into pieces. Playing with unit blocks is another way to manipulate parts of the whole, because unit blocks are all proportional.
6. Look at a thermometer or listen to the weather to find out what the temperature will be. Then ask your child what clothes they should wear that day. You might compare the temperatures inside your house with the temperature outside.
7. Help your child estimate. "How much paper will we need to wrap the present?"
 - "How many books can fit into that pack?"
 - "How many cups do you think will fill the bowl?"
 - "How long will it take us to clean up the blocks?"
 - "How many kids do you think ride the bus?"

After kids have taken a guess, check it to find the actual answer. This helps your child make reasonable guesses. It isn't important whether they are right or wrong, but that they have fun practicing this skill.



Fun with Math & Science

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