

Measuring

No rulers needed! There are lots of ways you and your child can find out how long or short something is.

You will need:

Something your child can use to measure with – a stick, a piece of string, same-sized lego bricks/building blocks?

Some things to measure – a rug, a table, a toy train or bear

You and your child

1. You and your child can find something to use to measure with. You might decide to use a stick or piece of string to begin with.
2. What are you going to measure? Once you start you might not be able to stop! Maybe how long is the rug? Or how tall is the table?
3. Show your child how to hold the stick/string at one end of the object, put their finger to mark where the stick/string gets to, and then move the stick/string along to that point and repeat. Don't forget to count as you go. Then you can say 'The rug is 5 sticks long'.
4. Your child could use the stick/string to measure some toys.
5. For a bit more of a challenge you could use some same-sized Lego bricks or building blocks to measure with. Stack or lay these along the object – there'll be lots of counting to do!

Earlier Stages of Development

For earlier stages of development use the language of length as you play with toys together, or when you see things on a walk – tall, short, long. Add gestures with your hands and arms to give visual clues – arms out wide for long, and hands close together for short.

Extension ideas

You could introduce comparisons – taller than, shorter than, longer than.