



ACTIVITY *page*

What do we have?

- > Paper
- > Markers
- > Objects that are bigger than your child's hand
- > String or yarn (optional)
- > Safety scissors (optional)
- > Book your child has not read



Book sharing

Take a prediction walk through your next book. Show your child the front cover. Ask, "What do you think the story is about?" Let him turn the pages and look at the pictures before you begin to read. Have your child guess what he thinks will happen. Read the story. Were his predictions correct?

How Many Hands? Predicting and Measuring

How do we do it?

1. Make a three-column chart on the paper. Label the columns "Object," "Prediction" and "Actual."
2. Encourage your child to draw a picture of each thing you will measure in the "Object" column. Help him write a label underneath each picture.
3. Have your child look at his hand. How big is it? Encourage him to compare size by putting his hand next to different objects.
4. Ask him to guess how many hands tall each item will be. Help him write the number in the "Prediction" column.
5. Pick an item and show your child how to measure it hand-over-hand. In the "Actual" column, write down how many of his hands tall it is. Continue until you have measured all of the objects. How close were his predictions?
6. Try measuring the same items with another object. How will this affect his predictions?

What's in it for us?

Cognitive

- a. As children practice making predictions, their guesses will get closer to the actual size of the item.
- b. Children are developing the ability to use mental reasoning (comparing bigger or smaller) without first needing to use trial and error with actual objects.
- c. Measuring with a second unit helps children compare and contrast and lays the groundwork for understanding standard units of measurement like feet.

Connecting across development

- > **Language:** When children label the pictures on the chart, they begin to associate words with objects.
- > **Social-emotional:** As children gain more experience with making guesses and measuring, they will become more confident in their ability to predict accurate measurements.
- > **Motor:** Measuring hand-over-hand takes practice. It's OK if there are large gaps between children's hands at first!



Parenting behavior ...

Observing my child's development ...

Reflecting with my child ...

Continued learning

A piece of string or yarn is a great tool for measuring and comparing sizes.

Help your child measure objects around the house.

Cut the string to the length of the object. Have your child lay the pieces of string on the ground to compare which item is longer or shorter.

Challenge your child to work backwards! Put all of the strings in a pile. Can he guess which string goes with each object?

Let him hold the strings next to the object to find out if he is right.

Keeping it going ...