



This is the sixth and final tip in a series of Learning on the Go Tips about early math skills that help children get ready for school.

Learning on the Go: Early Learning Tips for Young Children Measuring

Measuring can be as simple as learning the difference between small and big or short and tall. Here are some everyday ways to practice measuring:

- Give your baby or toddler safe plastic cups and bowls, small metal pots, and spoons. Try putting one item inside another and talk with your baby about what fits and what doesn't: "Oops, that pot is too big to fit inside the pan. Does the spoon fit?"
- Under close supervision, your toddler can use spoons and cups to measure out snacks, or see which containers in the bathtub hold more or less water.
- At mealtime, you can point out that your toddler's bowl is full of food, then half full, and then maybe even empty.
- Your preschooler can organize everyday items by size or weight. The mushrooms are in a small can, soup is in a medium-sized can, and the spaghetti sauce is in a big can. Use lots of comparison words, such as taller, shorter, heavier, lighter, more, less, about the same.
- Measure your child's height on a wall or door to show how he is growing taller. And measure things in unusual ways, too. You could measure your child's foot with pebbles—how many pebbles in a row are as long as her foot?
- Telling time is another type of measuring, so play time games. How many minutes does it take to pick up toys? How high can you count while standing on one foot?
- Tell your child what time things happen in their lives: lunch is at 12 noon, nap is at 2 o'clock, and dinner at 7. Use words like tonight, tomorrow, yesterday, later, and in 5 minutes.

These are just some of the ways you can make measurement part of your child's day and help him learn early math skills!

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