

Measure Me!



Level: Preschool

Cost: None

Mess factor: None

Suggested room in the house: Everywhere!



They grow up so fast, don't they? Try this fun activity that will have children measuring themselves and you and just about anything in the house!

Your child will experience:

- Measuring
- Comparing sizes
- Cutting
- Numbers



Materials:

- Yarn
- Masking tape
- Ruler or yard stick
- Scissors

Beginning:

Take a piece of yarn and stretch it out from children's head to their toes. Cut the yarn. Tape the yarn to a wall at the top and bottom so it is in a straight line. Label the yarn with the children's names. Use the yarn to show children how tall they are! Then tell them that, together, they are going to go on a hunt around the house to find out how long or tall other things are.



Middle:

Let children choose the things they want to measure. Make sure they have some sort of standard measuring tool like a ruler, yard stick or tape measure. Help them count the number of inches or feet of the object they find. Then pull out a piece of yarn the same length as the object they measure, and cut it. Tape it to the wall at the top and bottom right next to the piece of yarn you used to measure their height. Label with a piece of paper or masking tape what the object is. Move on to the next object and repeat this process.



End:

When children have finished measuring, use make observations about their results. For example:

"The _____ is the longest object you measured."

"The _____ is the shortest."

"What do you notice about the pieces of yarn?"

"How could we reorganize them (shortest to longest or longest to shortest)?"

"What was your favorite object to measure?"

continued on next page



Cleanup:

Ask children whether they would like to take down the longest pieces of yarn or the shortest.



Younger children:

- Measuring with yarn may be harder for them to understand, so just let them measure with the ruler.
- For very young children, don't even use the ruler, but ask them to find something very big or very small.

Older children:

- Have them write down the measurement (like 1 foot 2 inches) for every object they measure.
- Have them sort the yarn from longest to shortest. Putting things in order based on height or length is called seriation.



Hints:

- Comparing yarn lengths helps children make observations about measurement.
- They also learn how to use standard units of measurement, such as inches or feet, and non-standard units like yarn lengths. They also learn to use non-standard measuring tools, such as yarn.



More!

- If the children like comparing length, use a bathroom scale or kitchen scale to compare things based on weight!

Special Needs Accommodations:

- **If your children have issues with fine-motor skills**, then let them measure while you do the yarn part, or have them help you as much as they can without becoming frustrated.
- Pipe cleaners are more stiff than yarn and might help your child be more successful at this activity.