



August Theme Measuring



In *Courgette Wants To Be Big*, Baby Courgette becomes fixated on getting bigger and measuring himself. The story lends itself to lessons about measuring and size.

Try the activities below or some of your own.

Activity One: One Finger, One Thumb

This activity allows children to understand the concept of measuring lengths without needing to concentrate on metric or imperial units.

Children can make up a unit of measurement and use it to measure objects around the classroom or playground. For example they can choose to measure things in pencils, or in oranges, then find out how many pencils high a table is, or how many oranges high a bookshelf is. You can use the table attached to this document to record the measurements.

Ancient Egyptians used a system of measurements which were borne out of measuring body parts - cubits - which were comprised of palms and fingers. There is more information about this at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_weights_and_measures.

If you want to base your measurements on this, Dorling Kindersley have developed a great KS1 activity based on this concept, which you can download at

http://schools.dk.com/static/lessonplans/lp_ks1_maths.html

There is a *Curious George* game in the weblinks which asks children to guess the measurement of objects using unconventional units too.

Activity Two – Measure me

This activity picks up on Baby Courgette's desire to know how big he is and whether he is grown up. Most children are interested in their size at some stage. This activity takes away the focus on tallness and measures lots of different things.

Get some large pieces of paper or a roll of lining wallpaper or other cheap paper roll. In turn ask each child to lie on the paper and draw their silhouette. They can then also draw around their hands and feet. Young children may need help with this or you can use paint to do printing of hands and feet instead. They can also draw around a finger or a big toe. They can decorate the silhouettes or make them into self portraits, paint the nails on the fingers, draw patterned socks on to the feet etc.

Once they have made their 2D bodies, you can then all measure them together with rulers or any units of measurement you wish to use.

You can also measure distances between body parts using a piece of string - such as from the hairline to the tip of the nose, from the tip of the finger to the elbow, from ear to ear etc.

This is a fun activity and children should only measure things that they are comfortable with.

Activity Three – Smaller Than, Bigger Than

Building the most basic concept of size comparison.

Using the sheet attached here, get the children to find things which are smaller than or bigger than.

They can start by finding things smaller or bigger than themselves, by writing their name in the box at the top. They can draw the items, write them (older children) or cut them out of a catalogue.

You can change the categories for comparison so instead of being smaller than / bigger than themselves they can find animals which are smaller than or bigger than a cat, or foods which are smaller than or bigger than an apple.

You can also use objects in front of them, such as a plate of fruit and vegetables, or toys from your setting, for them to measure against each other.

MEASURING CHART

My unit of measurement is the:

What I measured	How many units it was

BIGGER THAN, SMALLER THAN

I am measuring things that are bigger than, and smaller than:

Bigger Than	Smaller Than