

## A Parent's Guide to Measurement (Part 2 of 3)

There are many interesting ways in which you can introduce your child to this important skill. **Penny Tassoni explains.**



### Learning the lingo

One of the main ways in which you can help your child learn about measurement is to **help them learn some of the specific words** that are associated with it.



This doesn't mean sitting down and teaching your child, but instead just using words linked to measuring when the opportunity

arises. **This way, your child can make the connection between the concept and the word.** Here are some suggestions.

Weight Specific words: heavy, light, heavier, lighter, heaviest, lightest, equal/same weight. For example, 'This bag is the heaviest. I wonder which is the lightest.'

Height Specific words: tall, short, taller, shorter, tallest, shortest, high, low, higher, lower, highest, lowest, equal/same height. For example, '**Who in the family is the tallest?** Who is the nearly the same height as you?'

Length Specific words: long, short, longer, shorter, longest, shortest, equal length. For example, 'These socks are shorter than yours.'

Width Specific words: wide, thick, narrow, thin, wider, narrower, thinner, thicker, widest, narrowest, thinnest, equal width. For example, 'Which ribbon should we use to wrap this present - the thick one or the thinner one?'

Volume and capacity Specific words: full, empty, fuller, emptier, deep, shallow, deeper, shallower, deepest, shallowest, fits, contain, hold. For example, **'The jug is nearly empty. Do you want to fill it?'**



Distance Specific words: near, close, far, nearer, closer, farther, nearest, closest, farthest, and side by side, alongside. For example, 'How far do you think this toy car will roll?', 'Grandma's house is near the school.'

General Words often associated with measuring activities: compare, guess, estimate, medium, equal, exactly, nearly, almost, too (too heavy, long), most, least, amount. For example, 'Let's

compare these toy cars. **Which one is the heaviest?'**, 'This train track is too short.'

### **Learning to estimate**

One of the skills you can practise with your child is estimation; this is about making an informed guess. The skill is often linked to children's confidence, as **children who find it hard are often worried they won't get the answer right.**

You can help your child develop confidence when estimating or 'guessing' by routinely using opportunities to estimate - for example, 'Guess how many steps it will take to get to our front door' or 'I wonder whether we can guess which box will be big enough for these toys?'

**Don't worry, or indeed laugh, if quite often your child's guesses are rather random** and possibly illogical. This is normal for young children, who are still learning about the world. Instead, take their guesses at face value and show that you value their thinking.

Also try to make it clear that guessing is for fun and that it doesn't matter if their estimate is not accurate. As your child develops and they gain in experience, you may start to notice that their estimates become more realistic.

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