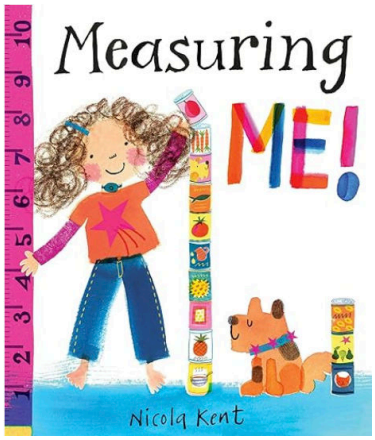

Measuring Me!

How tall are you in tin cans?

Topics: measurement, comparisons

Activities To Do Together:

Measuring Me! provides many human body facts and invites children to measure informally and compare size relationships. As you read this story, make comparisons using words like: bigger, heavier, smaller, taller, lighter, longer, and about the same size.

Before reading the book:

- Gather a group of three same-sized cans, blocks, or boxes and stack them one on top of the other. Find objects that are shorter, the same height, and taller than the stack of objects.
- Talk about different types of measurement, for example:
  - Capacity: how much a container holds
  - Distance: how far away
  - Length: how long
  - Speed: how fast
  - Temperature: how hot or cold
  - Time: how long it takes to do something
  - Volume: how much space something fills
  - Weight: how heavy
  - Width: how wide

While reading the book:

- Notice together that the child's thigh bone is about the height of a cat. What else is about the height of a cat?

When you have finished reading the book.

- Encourage your child to figure out how tall they are in tin cans or cereal boxes.
- The story says, "My tongue has thousands of taste buds." Make a list with your child of the things they like to taste. Which of these things are sweet, salty, or sour?
- Find three containers that have different shapes. Carefully fill each container with the same amount of water using a measuring cup. What do you notice?

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Children explore measurement with everyday objects and measurement-related facts about the human body.

Ages: 3 to 7 years

ATOS Reading Level:
n/a

Lexile: n/a

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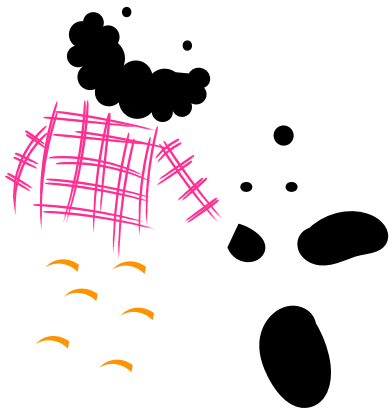


Conversations During Daily Routines with Toddlers:

1. Play time - Stack and count boxes, blocks, or cans together.
2. Bath time - Compare the length of a wash cloth and towel. Count how many times you can wrap a towel around your head.
3. Clean up time - Find two toys or objects that weigh about the same as each other. Find a toy or object that is heavier. Find one that is lighter.
4. Dinner time - Compare the tastes of foods you are eating. Identify foods that taste salty, sweet, savory, bitter, or sour.

Questions for Mathematical Thinking:

1. A girl in the story says that she is as tall as ten tin cans. How would you describe your height?
2. A girl in the story said if she laid the 100,000 hairs on her head end to end they would wrap around her house 1,000 times. What would happen if she got a hair cut? What would happen if her hair grew longer?
3. What different ways do the children in the story measure themselves? What comparisons do they make?
4. Which numbers would you use to describe yourself?
5. What did you think was most surprising in the story?

Early Math Project Resources:

Visit Measuring Me! (countplayexplore.org/book/measuring-me) to find activities and related California Learning Foundations and/or Mathematics Standards for this book.

Vocabulary

Math words found in the story: about the same, across, all, biggest, billion, end to end, height, miles, millions, smallest, thousands, times, tiny, together, weigh

Related math words: centimeters, cup, feet, inches, liters, meters, measurement, yards

Words to build reading comprehension: amazing, contains, energy, genes, muscles, still, taste buds, tendons, universe, unraveled, veins

Related Books: *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins; *Super Sand Castle Saturday* by Stuart J. Murphy; *Measuring Penny* by Loreen Leedy

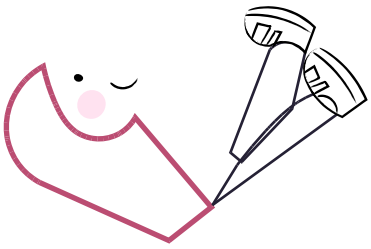
Click this link to the World Catalog or enter bit.ly/4krAKQz to find *Measuring Me!* in the public library.

Math Connections: How tall are you? How long do you need to brush your teeth? How much bigger are your shoes? The answers to many of children's questions rely upon measurement. We rely upon measurement to solve problems, describe situations, make comparisons, and plan appropriately.

You can support children's skills with measurement and comparison by using comparison vocabulary, words like taller, heavier, lighter, longer, wider, narrower, and farther.

With infants and toddlers, make a point of talking about the sizes of objects. While getting dressed, you might talk about items of clothing saying something like, "You have two small socks. I have two bigger socks." You might compare the size of two toys, "The blocks are heavy. The rattle is light." Make a point of describing objects often during your daily routines. Also describe what you are doing and the objects around you. Use measurement words often and in a variety of situations so your child becomes familiar with them. Make it enjoyable!

Encourage preschoolers and transitional kindergarteners to measure informally with the objects around them. For example, how many times will a toy fit end to end across a bed. Encourage children to think about the sizes of objects by considering which object is taller, longer, wider, or heavier. Talk about how different objects can be bigger in different ways. An elephant is heavier than a giraffe, but a giraffe is taller than an elephant. Each is bigger in its own way. Encourage preschoolers to measure objects in different ways and with different objects. What is the child's height using tin cans? How tall in cereal boxes? Is the number of tin cans the same as the number of cereal boxes? How many books weigh the same as a gallon of milk? How many tin cans weigh the same as the milk? What do you notice? Explorations like these help children to realize that standard units of measurement are important so everyone has the same understanding when problem solving and making comparisons.



With older children, consider how different objects might be measured, for example, by length, weight, volume, or speed. Find out how standard measuring tools are used to measure accurately. Encourage children to explain how to measure accurately with a particular tool. For example, how to use a timer on a cell phone or how to measure correctly with a ruler. Estimate the length or weight of an object and measure to see if the estimate was close. Practice using scales, rulers, timers, and measuring cups.