

Introduction

Children need to be able to use everyday language to talk about size, measure and position, to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They need to be able to explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

Ideas for Home –

Size and Measure

- Use your child's toys or teddies to talk about how big or small they are.
- Use lots of size language, such as big, bigger, biggest, small, smaller, smallest, little, large and medium.
- Use boxes, cups and bowls to fit teddy inside. Use questions such as "Does he fit?" "Is it too big?"
- Find different sized toys and measure them back to back and talk about which one is smallest or largest.
- Measure your children back to back and then measure against an adult. Talk about tallest and shortest when looking at the height of people and also mention if they are the same height.
- Encourage your child to use their hands or a stick to measure how big something is and compare how many sticks long each object is.
- Cut differing lengths of ribbon or paper to lay on the floor to compare length.
- Use a tape measure, ruler and weighing scales.
- Encourage your children to use containers to fill and empty whilst playing in the garden or at bath time. Help them to notice how many small containers it takes to fill the large one.
- Measure clothes and shoes to find out which are bigger and smaller. Look at the numbers on the labels.

- Read books such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Encourage the children to find a small, medium and large bowl for the bears and act out the story.



Position

- Play hide and seek with a teddy or toy and give verbal clues such as "It's under the bed" or "It's behind the chair". Take turns asking the child where they would like to put it.
- When putting the shopping or washing away ask for help and tell your child where the food or clothes need to go, such as **In** the cupboard or **On** the table.
- When playing with toys talk about where they are such as "My car is next to the train" or "The bus is between/In front/ next to the trains".
- Find a box without a lid and a cloth. Choose a toy and put it on the cloth with the box on top. Encourage your child to guess who is on the cloth but under the box and then play a game where you close your eyes and take turns at putting the toy in different places such as on top of the box but under the cloth. Give each other instructions as to where you will find the toy.
- Look at where things are positioned when out shopping or in the park i.e. the swing is next to the slide or the soup is above the beans.