

JUST HOW LONG CAN A LONG STRING BE?! Preschool

Measurement

In this book, a bird and an ant explore the various ways string can be used and measured. The story lends itself to talking about and practicing measuring using nonstandard units.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

THINK-MATH



Children will:

- ◆ Compare objects to identify which is longer
- ◆ Use measurable attributes to make comparisons

Teachers will:

- ◆ Prompt children to make measurements

TEACHING TIP

Whether they realize it or not, children apply the concepts of measurement in their everyday activities. Children might compare their height to a peer or notice measurements in the sizes of objects. Measurement involves finding a number that represents an attribute of an object (e.g., length). Comparing involves finding the relationship between two different objects. Words like bigger, smaller, wider, or the same use comparison to describe objects. This book provides many chances for measuring and comparing using the string on each page.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “Am I taller or shorter than you? What about our arms, are mine longer? Today we are going to read *Just How Long Can a Long String Be?! and see how we can compare and measure the string.*”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to model making comparisons between the different objects on each page.
- ◆ Prompt children to try measuring and comparing the string and objects using nonstandard units of measurement.

Prompt Children to Make Measurements

Read: “Will it pull down a shade?”

Model: “The string on the shade looks longer than the bird, but shorter than the string going across the page.”

Prompt: “Is this string shorter or longer than the one used to turn on the light (*point to the string on the light*)? You can try using your finger to measure them on the page (*encourage children to measure*).”

Read: “Will it hang a picture on the wall?”

Model: “I’m going to using this pencil to measure how wide these pictures are (*demonstrate measuring with any nonstandard tool*).”

Prompt: “How wide are these pictures (*pull your hands apart to demonstrate width*)? How could we measure them?”

Read: “A banjo? A mop?”

Prompt: “Let’s try measuring how long the strings on the banjo are. What tool could we use? (*Encourage children to choose and try out a nonstandard tool, like Unifix blocks, or a conventional measurement tool like a measuring tape*).”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “Today we followed a string and saw how short and long it could be, and we even tried measuring using tools of our own. Comparing and measuring can tell us a lot about the things around us.”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Encourage children to use standard and nonstandard tools of measurement like rulers, their feet, cubes, or string. Measuring can be done throughout your daily routine and learning environment. Be sure to model using measurement and comparison words as children explore this skill (e.g., “The table is ten blocks long,” “This apple slice is heavier than the cracker”).