

Looking for Length

Stage 2



Lesson Overview

Overview	Go outside to measure the length of objects in the playground.
Inquiry Questions	Consider: Where can we measure length in the playground? Act: How can we use formal measurements to measure items outside? Reflect: What did we find out about lengths in the playground? Did anything surprise us?
Syllabus Outcomes	MA2-1WM Uses appropriate terminology to describe, and symbols to represent, mathematical ideas. MAS2-2WM Selects and uses appropriate mental or written strategies, or technology, to solve problems. MA2-9MG Measures, records, compares and estimates lengths, distances and perimeters in metres, centimetres and millimetres, and measures compares and records temperatures.
Equipment and Materials	Paper and pencils to record information (optional) Meter rulers, 30cm rulers, tape measures Chalk Camera/ device to take photographs for use in follow-up lessons

Lesson Details

Teaching and Learning Activities
Activity 1: Measuring Length In pairs or groups use a tape measure to calculate the distances of areas of the playground. These could include: the basketball court, outdoor benches, climbing equipment or garden beds. Estimate the length before measuring it. Complete the measurements. Record measurements to the nearest centimetre on hand-drawn diagrams. Discuss why different people may have obtained different answers.
Activity 2: House Length Measurements In the playground, use chalk to draw representations of their houses. Encourage the children to draw straight lines by using meter rulers. Measure the distances of each of the sides of their houses using 30cm or meter rulers. Record on the house representations the distance of each side in cm. Draw and label these representations on paper.
Activity 3: Leaf Length Ask the class to collect a group of ten leaves each, making sure they get a range of lengths. Model measuring one of the groups of leaves with a ruler in centimetres. Highlight the similarities of the measurements and discuss how we can use a smaller unit of measurement to be more accurate. Model measuring in millimetres, order the leaves from shortest to longest. Each child repeats the activity for themselves. Record the leaf collections in photographs.
Activity 4: Length Scavenger Hunt Provide children with a list of a series of lengths and rulers. Ask them to explore the playground to find items of that length.

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