

I AM THIS BIG



Read the book, create and leap into play!

I AM THIS BIG



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How does it feel when you can't reach something?
But how does it feel when you CAN?

Learning to be independent brings lots (and LOTS!) of mixed emotions, but it is an important part of your child's growth and development. Caring and patient adults can help young children help themselves as they learn self-help skills for life.

This bright and colourful story is sure to relate to your growing preschooler!



Read and point to what the child in the story can and can't reach. In particular, draw attention to the child's facial expressions. Ask your child, 'How do you think they are feeling? How do you think they feel now they can reach?'

The repetition helps to connect the key concept. The theme also prompts the use of different words to describe size and measurement like...small, big, bigger, large, short, tall, tallest, low, high, higher, long and wide.



Talk about what your child can reach around your own home? How does it make them feel? Is there something they want to reach?

Are there things which are high that they shouldn't reach?

Think about the people in your family. How tall are they? Who is the shortest? Who is the tallest? What things can they and can't they reach?



Sing a song about building higher and higher. Ask your child to join in with you with clenched hands, one on top of the other. Start down low and build up and up and up!

Build it up, build it up, build it higher.

Build it up,

Build it up,

Build it higher.

Build it up, up, up,

Into the sky.



Create and Play

Hand Sorting

- Sort different sized hands in order. Use the template or trace your own hands and then your family's hands. Can you put them in order starting from the smallest?
- Extend the activity with real life items around the house. Group, sort and categorise. 'Can you put all the big blocks in the basket and the small blocks in the box?' Help your child to make the connection. 'I see...you are putting the big blocks in the basket...and the small over here.' You might use clothes, toys or food shopping.
- Sorting, grouping and comparing develops thinking and language skills to support maths and general life skills. It may even make tidying the toy room more fun!

What Can You Reach?

- Explore what you can and can't reach around your home. Think about why or why not? Draw, or use the template, to record what you can reach and what you can't.

Builder Challenge!

- Can you make something taller...how high can you go? Can you measure it? Can you build a bridge and make it balance?
- Ask some questions to learn more about your child's thinking or you can use the starter 'Tell me about...' This gives your child the invitation to tell you what they know.



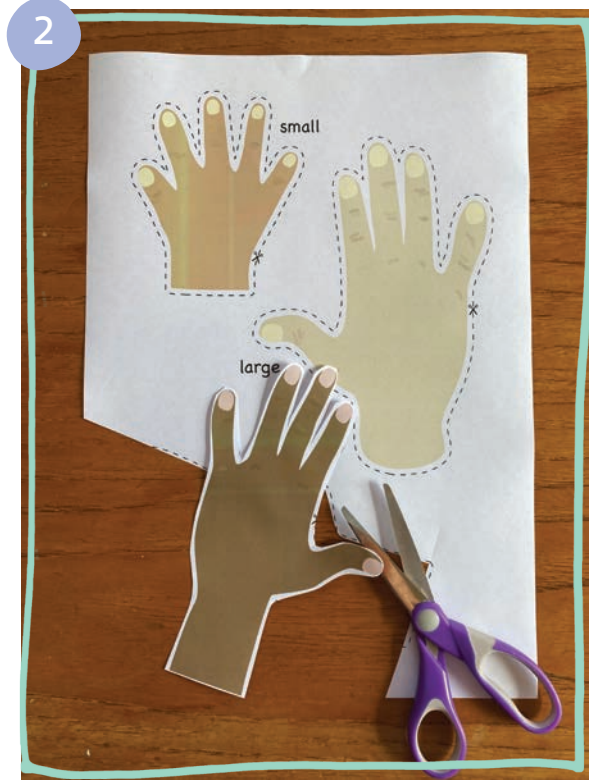
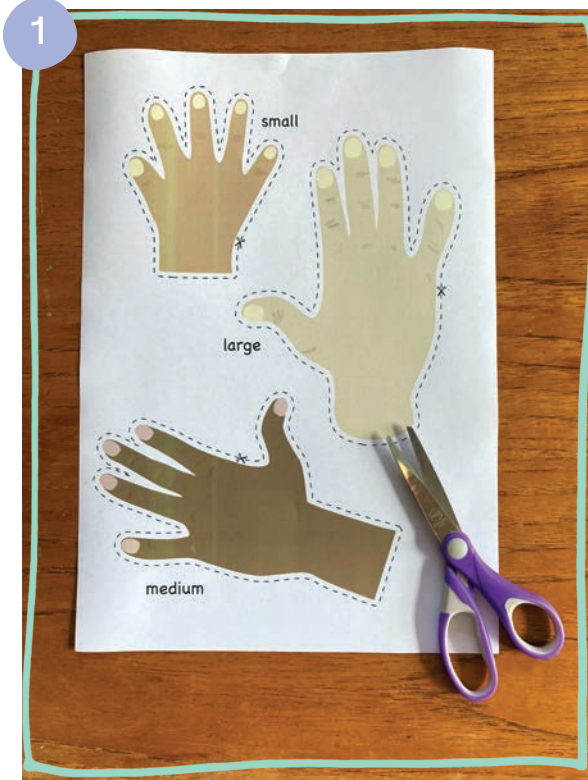
Learning ways to be independent is so important to your child and their growing sense of self. When they are supported to practise doing things for themselves, they develop self-help skills, which builds their abilities and overall confidence.

Support your child to try new tasks and take safe risks. They will learn to problem solve and understand that it can take lots of time, patience and practice to master a new skill.

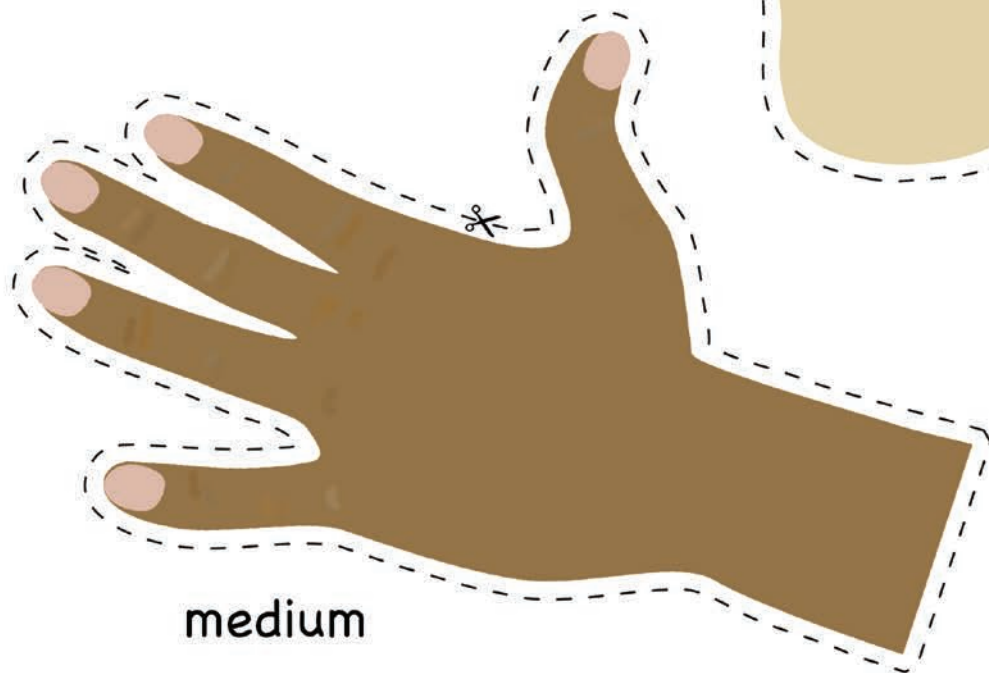
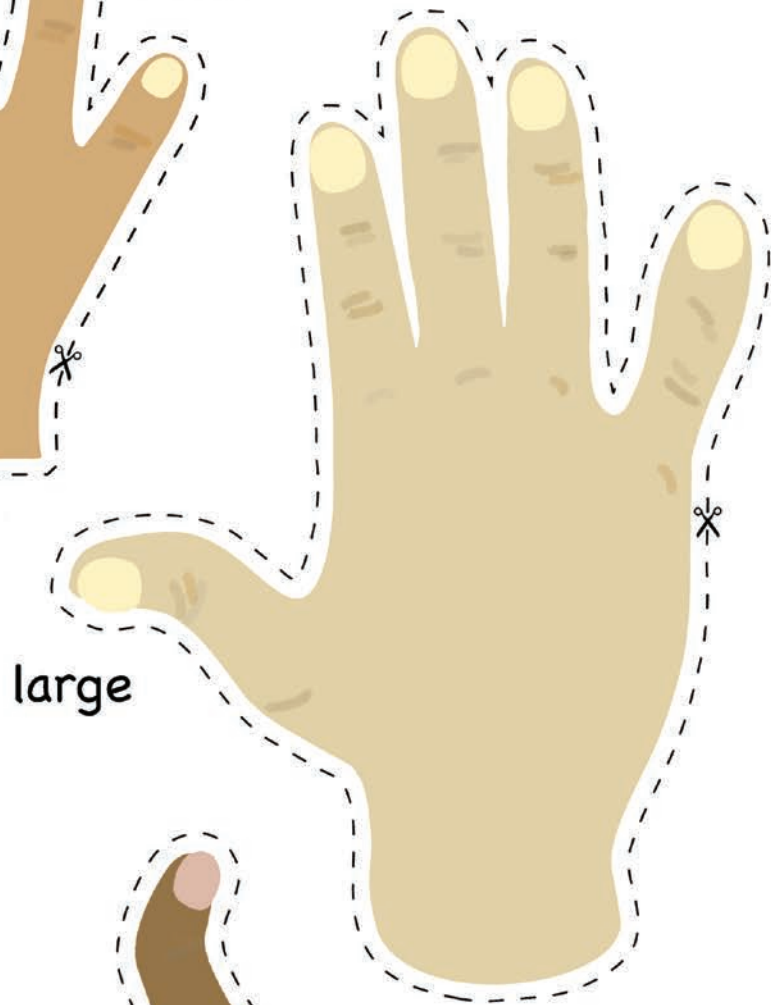


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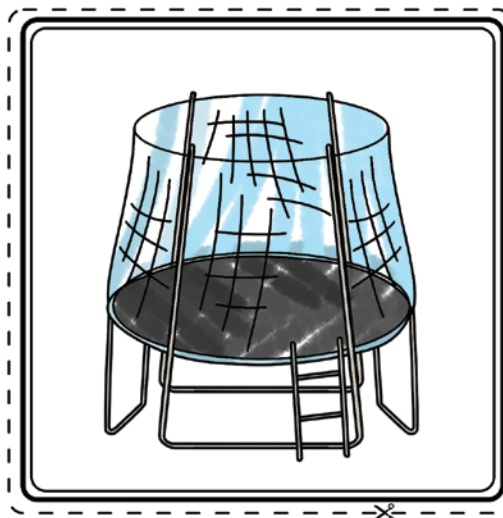
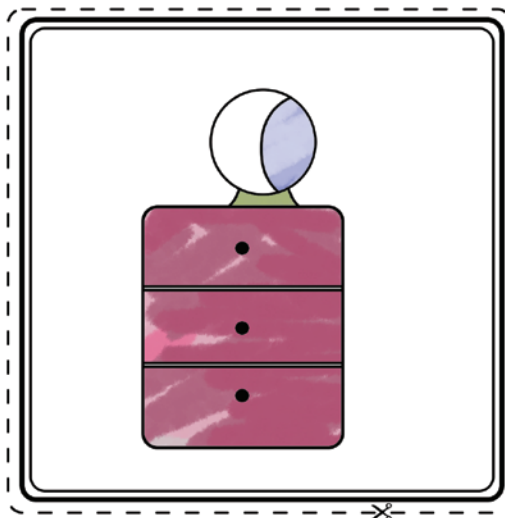
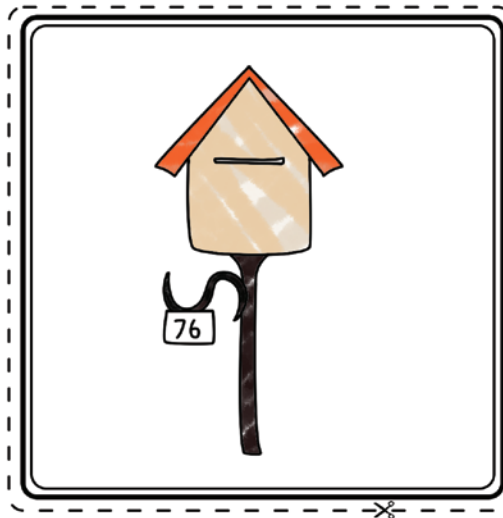
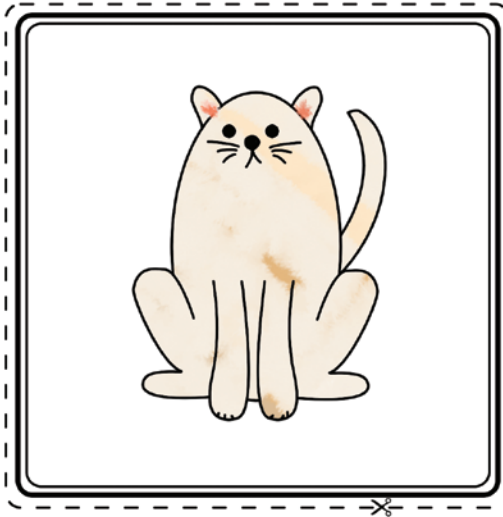
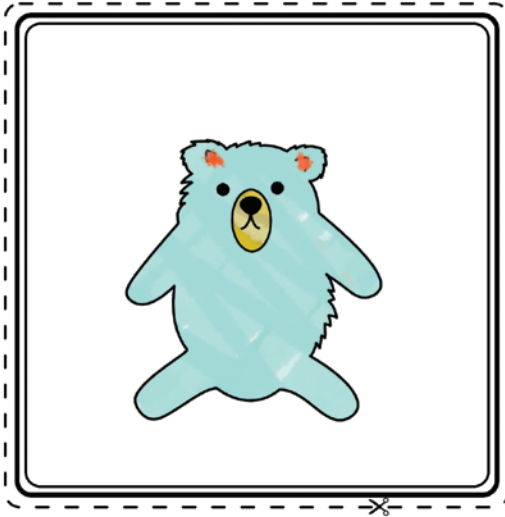
Sort the hands into size - small to big or big to small!



Follow these steps...



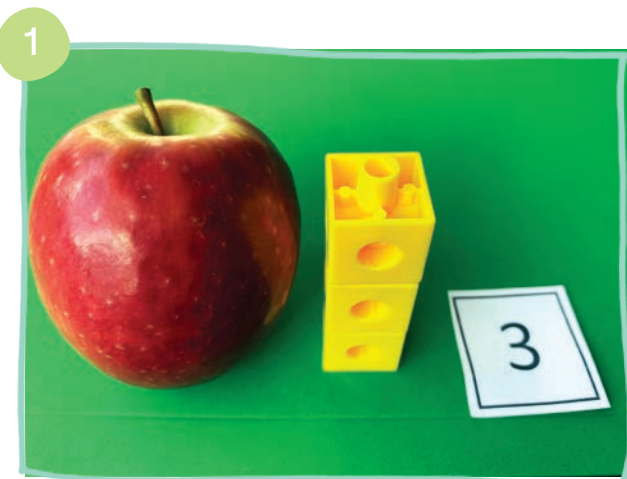
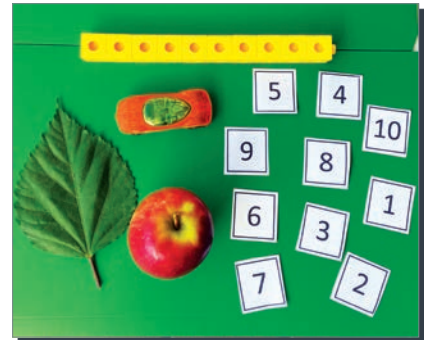
What can you reach around your home?



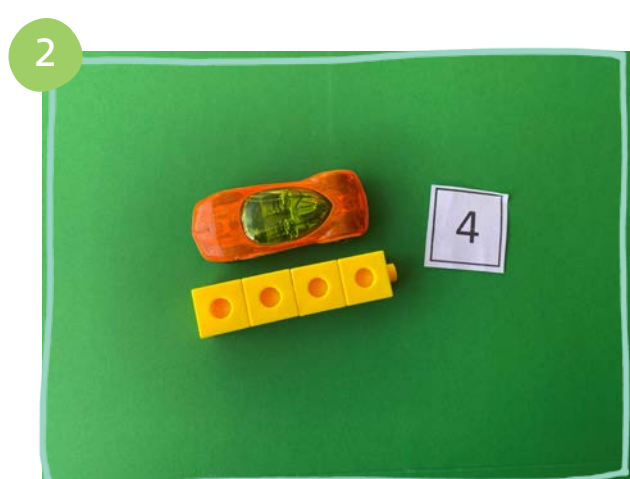
Learning to Measure

Use a non standard unit of measurement such as **blocks or linking cubes** to introduce the concept of measurement.

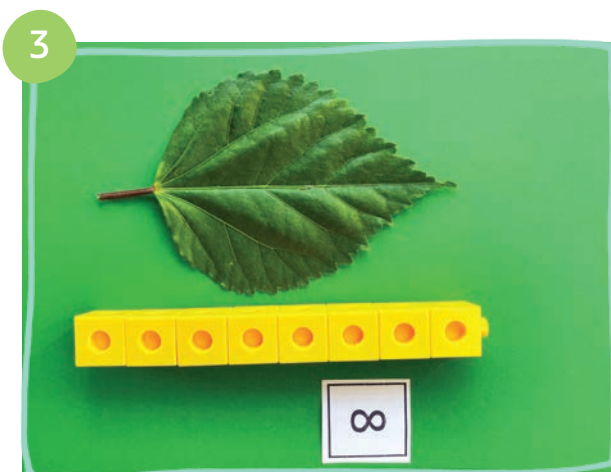
- Find some items around the home to measure.
- See how many blocks long each item is.
- Count each block and use the number counters to display each item's length.



How many blocks is the apple?



How many blocks is the car?



How many blocks is the leaf?

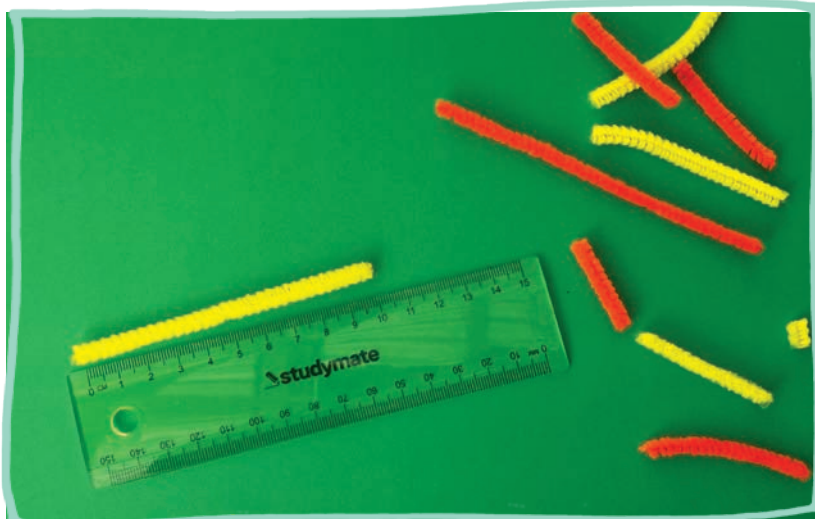
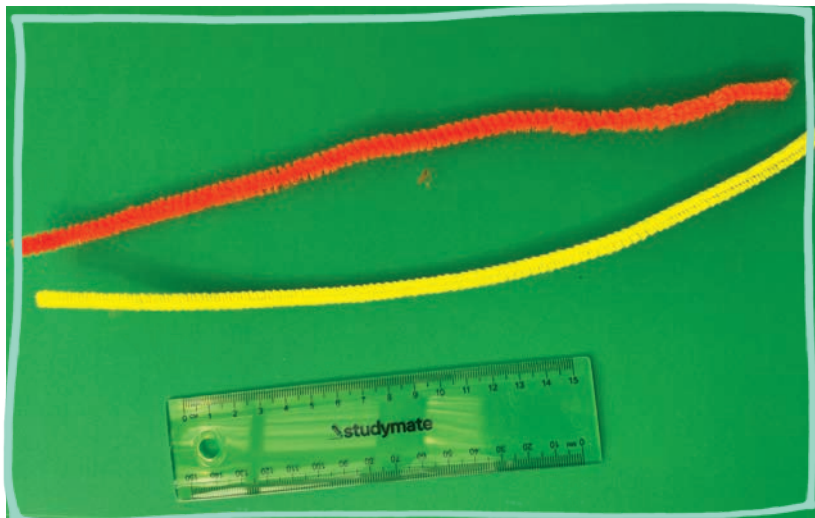
Which is the longest?

The car, the apple or the leaf?

Using a ruler to measure

A ruler is a great way to introduce a standard unit of measurement.

- Take some pipecleaners and cut them into various sizes.
- Use a ruler to measure each piece. The larger the number the longer the pipecleaner.
- Which piece is the longest?
- Which is the shortest?
- Sort them into size from shortest to longest.



Number counters

Print and cut out the counters.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Build it up, build it higher!

 Look around and  find something small

which you can make **TALL** by building.

Do you have some blocks? What else could you use?

Can you build a tower as **TALL** as you...or higher?

Is it  wobbly? Or straight  and **TALL**?

How many blocks high is it?

Can you measure  how **TALL** your tower is?

How **BIG** are you next to your tower?

Next, start with something tall and make it small!



**Build it up, build it up,
build it higher.**

Build it up,

Build it up,

Build it higher.

Build it up, up, up,

Into the sky.

