



## Measuring Lengths

### The Long and Short of It

**Beginner:** Use the words “long(er)” and short(er)” to talk about the length of objects

**[Tip]:** Make your body long like a worm and short like a bug.

**Intermediate:** Measure the length of objects using your hands, fingers and feet.

**[Tip]:** Measure the foot size and arm span of you and your child, as well as objects like tables, stairs, couches. “The table is 10 hands long.”

**Experienced:** Measure the length of objects using a ruler, tape measure, metre stick, or a piece of string. Use terms like millimetres, centimetres, feet, metres and inches.

**[Tip]:** “The spoon is 16 centimetres long.”

**Why is this important?** Understanding measurement is an important skill in mathematics and everyday life.

**References:** Sarama, J., Clements, D.H., Barrett, J. et al. Evaluation of a learning trajectory for length in the early years. ZDM Mathematics Education 43, 667–680 (2011). <https://doi-org.uwinnipeg.idm.oclc.org/10.1007/s11858-011-0326-5>