

Natural measuring

Using a stick as a simple measuring tool to explore the outdoor environment

EYFS

Early learning goals: Mathematics, Understanding the world

Activity type: individual/small groups with an adult

Length of activity: 20 minutes

Outdoor requirements: playground

Resources: range of different sized sticks in playground, coloured sticky tape or paint

Starter activity

Ask children to find a special measuring stick. Let children explore the environment by measuring different objects using their stick, e.g. a door is... sticks long, a bike is ...sticks wide.

Main activities

Paint a long stick in equal coloured sections (e.g. red, blue, red, blue), alternatively, put tape around the stick to divide the sections - this is your measuring stick. Children take it in turns to measure their own stick with the measuring stick.

Send children to find an object that could be measured.

Plenary activity

Children take it in turns to measure their object using the measuring stick.

They could be set challenges using the measuring stick e.g. find the deepest hole in the sand pit or find the tallest tower and question how they know.

Specific risk assessment

Agree rules with the children for how to use sticks safely