

# Sizing sticks

Using mathematical language associated with size to complete a range of activities using natural materials.

## EYFS

**Early learning goals:** Mathematics, Literacy

**Activity type:** individual/small groups with an adult

**Length of activity:** 20 minutes

**Outdoor requirements:** playground

**Resources:** different sized sticks, something with holes in (e.g. air brick, clay or wooden block), range of natural materials, string, thick waxy leaves with holes in

### Starter activity

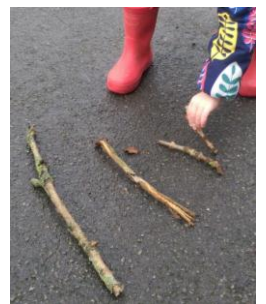
Give children something with holes in and a range of sticks and let them explore that they are different sizes. Discuss with them which ones are longer or shorter and how they know.

### Main activities

Children select one stick each. Put one stick onto the ground to start a line of length order. Children take it in turns to put their stick down, telling the adult why it should go in that place, e.g. is it longer or shorter?

Any natural materials can be used to help children to understand the concept of size e.g. bigger/smaller, wider/narrower.

To make an outdoor display children could make a leaf (or stick) mobile; give them different sized thick, waxy leaves with holes in (use a hole punch) and thread it onto string in a size order.



### Plenary activity

Children organise themselves into size order from longest to shortest (this could be done standing or lying down). Ask them to use language to describe why they are there, e.g. I am longer or shorter than...

### Specific risk assessment

Agree rules with the children for how to use sticks safely  
Check area for litter before children collect sticks and leaves

