Comparing Sizes: Big, Bigger and Biggest

Key points

- In Reception (the first year of primary school), children learn to compare the size of different objects.
- Direct measurement is when children place two objects side by side to see which is larger.
- Indirect measurement is using a third object, like a piece of string, to compare two things that cannot be moved next to each other.
- Children practice using words like 'big', 'bigger' and 'biggest' to describe and order three or more items.
- These early maths skills help children understand the world around them before they start formal measuring in Year 1.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and you can ask your child's teacher for more details on how they are taught at school.

Things to try at home

- Line up a few favourite toys and see if you can put them in order from smallest to biggest.
- While getting dressed, look at your shoes and your child's shoes to see whose is bigger.
- Use a piece of ribbon or string to see if the sofa is longer than the dining table.
- During tidy-up time, find the biggest book on the shelf and the smallest one.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) lead.
- The GOV.UK website for official information on the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework.