

Themed Activities: Spooky Measures



A Spooky Measures display



Learning Objective

To practise using centimetres and millimetres.

Starting Points

- Show the children a section of a ruler. Concentrate identifying centimetres.
- Ask the children to estimate 1 cm using their thumb and finger.
- With the children working in pairs, ask each child to draw 1 centimetre on paper, then swap papers to estimate.
- Ask the children to look closely at the measures which come between the centimetre lines (the millimetres).
- Provide children with a hand lens and a variety of small objects, some measuring only a few centimetres and the others, less than a centimetre – for example, a bead, the width of a rubber band, an earring and a pin. Ask the children to measure their objects with the help of the hand lens. Write down the measurements of length and width on paper, then label and place their object alongside.
- In groups, ask children to order their objects and display the appropriate measures.

Make

- Create Spooky Castle Windows to display the children's work on using small measures.
- Ask children to make bats, moons, stars and spiders to add to the display.
- When the measuring activity below is completed, mount and display the children's work in the shape of a castle and decorate with the spooky images that children have created.

Activities

- Provide children with a selection of small paper cut-outs of bats, moons and stars. An easy and effective way to do this is to give them spooky stickers.
- Invite children to stick them at random on a sheet of dark blue paper, and then to join up the different objects in their window using a gold pen.
- Ask the children to estimate the distance between the bats, moons and stars, and then to measure accurately in centimetres and millimetres.
- Note the different between estimation and measurement. Use a hand lens to help check the accuracy of their work.

Develop and Extend

- Invite children to fill a matchbox with small objects, some measuring more or less than a centimetre. Ask them to write a list of contents and their estimated measurements on a small piece of paper to fit in the matchbox. Use the objects and estimates as a basis for measurement in class, checking the work with the aid of a hand lens.
- Make a little measuring book to record and display children's work and the vocabulary used. Children should use their books to record their estimate, measurement and difference for each object.



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Adapted from:



Belair On Display - Hands on Numeracy Ages 7 – 11

Spooky Measures



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