

Playing With Many Sizes

Big, big, little, little



Offer your child objects that are graduated in size, such as a canister set or measuring cups, and respond to the way she arranges them.

Your child will begin to learn about the math skill of sequencing items by size.





Why this is important

Playing with objects of graduated size encourages your child to create arrangements and sequences based on size or amount. This skill is needed for determining the differences among a series of sizes, such as in clothing, food portions, and tools. It will help your child make choices when she is able to understand where any one item fits in a series.

What you do

- Find safe household objects for your child to play with that are graduated in size, such as measuring spoons, canisters, nesting toys, or graduated wrenches. You also can create groups of shoes or jar lids in varying sizes.
- Show your child one set of objects and invite her to play: *Here are a set of six measuring spoons. Let's see what you can do with them.* (If you use measuring spoons or cups, make sure they are separate and not joined on a ring.)
- Wait for your child to notice the different sizes and begin to compare the items. Give her plenty of time to play without assistance.
- When you notice your child comparing sizes, talk about size relationships: *You put them all in a row. Let's see, this is the smallest one at this end. What did you put at the other end?*
- Invite your child to record her accomplishment by placing the row of items on a piece of paper and tracing around each one.

Ready to move on?

Challenge your child to notice a different type of size relationship by filling a few identical plastic cups with varying levels of water. When she arranges them correctly, add more water to (or pour some water out of) one or two glasses so that she can find a new order.

Let's read together!

Swimmy
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