

Baking and Cooking with Your Child--Measurement

What the Research Says

- Measurement is an important content area identified by the NCTM (National Council on Teaching Mathematics).
- Measurement addresses the mathematical concepts of length (longer than, shorter than), area (covers more, covers less), capacity (holds more, holds less), and weight (heavier, lighter).
- Young children encounter measurement in many contexts as they explore and make sense of their world. For example, when children are thirsty and notice that different size glasses can hold different amounts of juice (capacity).
- It is expected that young children's understandings of measurement (length, area, capacity, weight) is different from those of older children and adults. These understandings will improve as they have many experiences and conversations about measurement over time.
- During the PK years, young children recognize that objects have measurable properties and can understand what is meant by: how long, how heavy, and how much.
- Comparing lengths, capacities, and weights through play and daily routines start children on the path to understanding and using measurement.