

Dear Family,

This week your child is exploring the importance of using standard units of measurement.



Your child will encounter measurements throughout their lives and it is important that he or she understands standard units of measurement.

You can describe the length of a pen, for example, using other objects. The pen to the right is 6 small paper clips long. However, it is important you don't use different-size objects when you measure, because you might not get the same measurement. If you used a mix of paper clip sizes, it wouldn't be clear what length 4 paper clips is.

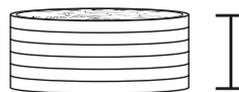


We use **standard units** to make sure that a measurement unit is always the same size, so that all measurements are consistent. Inches and centimeters are two examples of standard units.

The width of a quarter is about 1 **inch** (in.).



A stack of 6 quarters is about 1 **centimeter** (cm) tall.



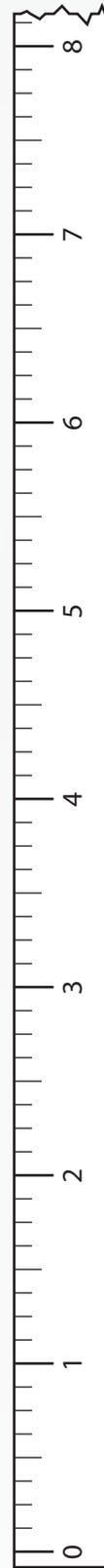
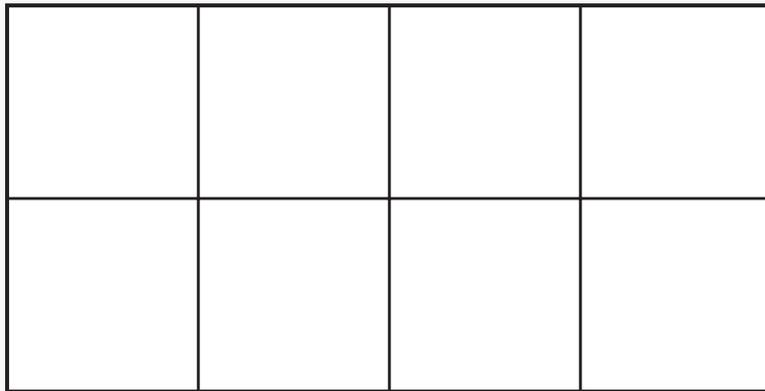
Invite your child to share what he or she knows about standard units of length by doing the following activity together.



Units of Measurement Activity

Remind your child that a ruler is a tool that measures using standard units.

- Cut out the ruler and 1-inch square tiles, or use an actual ruler and copy the tiles to a different sheet of paper and cut them out. Explain to your child that each square has a side length of 1 inch.
- Measure several objects by lining up the tiles side by side, then again using the ruler. (Measure all objects to the nearest inch. Explain to your child that means that if the length of an object falls between two inch measurements, pick the one that is closer to the length of the object.)
- Ask your child to explain why you get the same measurement using the tiles and using the ruler. Line up the tiles on top of the ruler to reinforce the fact that the ruler shows several inches side by side, just like the tiles.



Do you think it's easier to use tiles or a ruler to measure an object? Why?

