

Dear Family,

This week your child is exploring estimating lengths of objects using benchmark objects.



estimate: use math thinking to make a close guess.

If you know the length of a common object, you can use that length to estimate the length of other objects.

Here are some helpful benchmarks you can use with your child to estimate length.

1 centimeter



About the width of your little finger.

1 inch



About the width of a quarter.

1 foot



About the height of a math book.

1 meter or 1 yard



About the width of a door.

To estimate the length of this ribbon, your child might compare it to quarters, and estimate that it would take 5 quarters to measure the ribbon, so it is about 5 inches long.



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

NEXT

Estimating Length Activity

Materials: quarter, ruler, toys, or household objects

- Have your child collect three of his or her favorite small toys.
- Work with your child to estimate the length of each toy in centimeters. Encourage your child to use his or her little finger as a benchmark measurement of 1 centimeter.
- Estimate the length of the toy in inches, using a quarter as a benchmark measurement of 1 inch.
- Fill in the table below with the estimates. Then use a ruler to measure the toys' lengths to the nearest inch or centimeter.
- Ask your child which of his or her estimates was closest to the actual length.



	Centimeters		Inches	
	Estimate	Actual	Estimate	Actual
Toy #1				
Toy #2				
Toy #3				

Keep an eye open for examples of benchmark lengths in your everyday life. Share these with your child. For example, the height of a tree might be a good example of 20 feet, and the length of a sidewalk square might be a good example of 1 yard.