

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to compare measurements and find the difference in lengths.

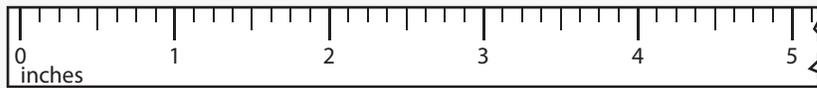


Your child might see a question like this one: Troy and Gus measure their pencils. How much longer is Gus's pencil?

Troy



The rulers on this page are not life-sized.



Gus



To find how much longer one pencil is than the other, find the difference between the lengths of the pencils. Gus's pencil is 5 inches long and Troy's is 2 inches long.

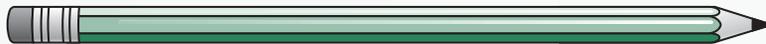
Since $5 - 2 = 3$, you know Gus's pencil is 3 inches longer than Troy's pencil.

You can also simply measure the difference.

Troy



Gus



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



Comparing Lengths Activity

Materials: ruler, uncooked spaghetti (or strips of paper)

Play the following game with your child to practice comparing lengths.

- Hold one end of a piece of uncooked spaghetti and have your child hold the other end.
- Break the spaghetti into two pieces.
- Compare the lengths to determine who has the longer piece.
- Help your child measure both pieces of spaghetti in centimeters and find the difference. (Measure all objects to the nearest centimeter. Explain to your child that means that if the length of an object falls between two centimeter measurements, pick the one that is closer to the length of the object.)
- The person with the longer piece gets 1 point for each centimeter of difference. (So, a difference of 3 cm = 3 points). Record the winner's points in the table.
- Play the game two more times.
- Ask your child to add up the points to determine who won the game.

	Player A	Player B
Game 1		
Game 2		
Game 3		
Total		

