Measurement activities: compare and order

One child at a time. Read the steps, watch without helping, and note what the child does. Real objects are best; each card has a picture to use when there are none.

Activity 1 Compare two objects

1. Give the child two bowls that are close in capacity, so that looking is not enough.
2. Ask: “Which one holds more? Show me how you find out.”
3. Then point to the other one and ask: “And this one?”

Look for: Compares them directly (fills one with water or sand and pours it into the other) and says which one holds more and which one holds less. Answering from a look without comparing, or naming only one of the two, does not meet the task criteria.

The child did and said: _____

Activity 2 Compare lengths with a string

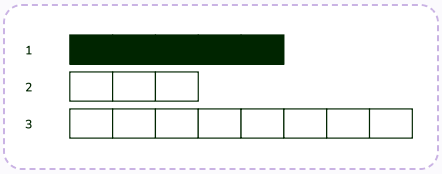
1. Give the child a piece of string longer than both. The door and the window must not be moved.
2. Say: “Which is longer, the door or the window? Use the string to find out.”
3. Watch how the child uses the string. Do not show how.
4. Write on the lines on this card what the child did with the string.

Look for: Lays the string along one of them, marks or holds the length with a finger, carries it to the other and compares, then says which is longer. Guessing by eye without the string, or laying the string along only one of them, does not meet the task criteria.

What the child did and said: _____

Activity 3 Order by length, area and capacity

1. Have ready three strips of different lengths, three paper shapes of different sizes, and three clear containers with rice or water.
2. Say: “Put the strips in order from shortest to longest.” Watch whether the child lines up one end.
3. Say: “Put the shapes in order from covers least to covers most.” The child may lay them on top of each other.
4. Say: “Put the containers in order from holds least to holds most.” The child may pour from one to another.



Look for: All three sets in the right order, compared by lining up ends, laying shapes on top of each other and pouring.

Not yet: An order chosen by eye without comparing, or one set out of order.

Sets put in order: _____

Measurement activities: compare and order: class record

▯ did it on their own ○ not yet – not seen yet. Write the date beside a mark to see progress over the year.

Child	1 Compare two objects	2 Compare lengths with a string	3 Order by length, area and capacity