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For Early Learners

Introducing Measurement:

Activities for the Early Years

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Introducing Measurement -Activities for the Early Years

It is all too easy to assume that children will immerse themselves in free play activities that will lead to mathematical discoveries and investigations. While it is certainly true that young children learn a great deal from play situations, most students, in their formative years, can further their own discoveries when exposed to planned mathematical activities and specific and associated language.

This book contains thirty activities that deal with the mathematical strand of measurement. The activity sheets are clear and simple and use animals, characters and situations that are relevant and appeal to the interests of young children. The activity sheets are designed so that they can be used as stand-alone activities, and at the same time meet requirements as set down in curriculum documents. Each activity sheet is also supported by valuable whole class lead-up activities where the specific language of mathematics can be explored in a hands-on situation. The mat activities are fun and easy to organise with a minimum of preparation. Follow-up, support and extension ideas for related songs, poems and class displays are suggested to further develop ideas with young children.

This book is designed to make mathematical activities fun, enjoyable and purposeful for both students and staff.

Have fun with measurement!

Anne Bell

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Teachers' Notes

Use your s to measure

Whole class lead-up activity

Talk about how, in the olden days, horses were measured in hands and that they are still referred to in this measurement. Find some other things in your classroom, e.g. bookstand, chair, light switch, and use students' hands to measure how high or tall these objects are.

Activity page

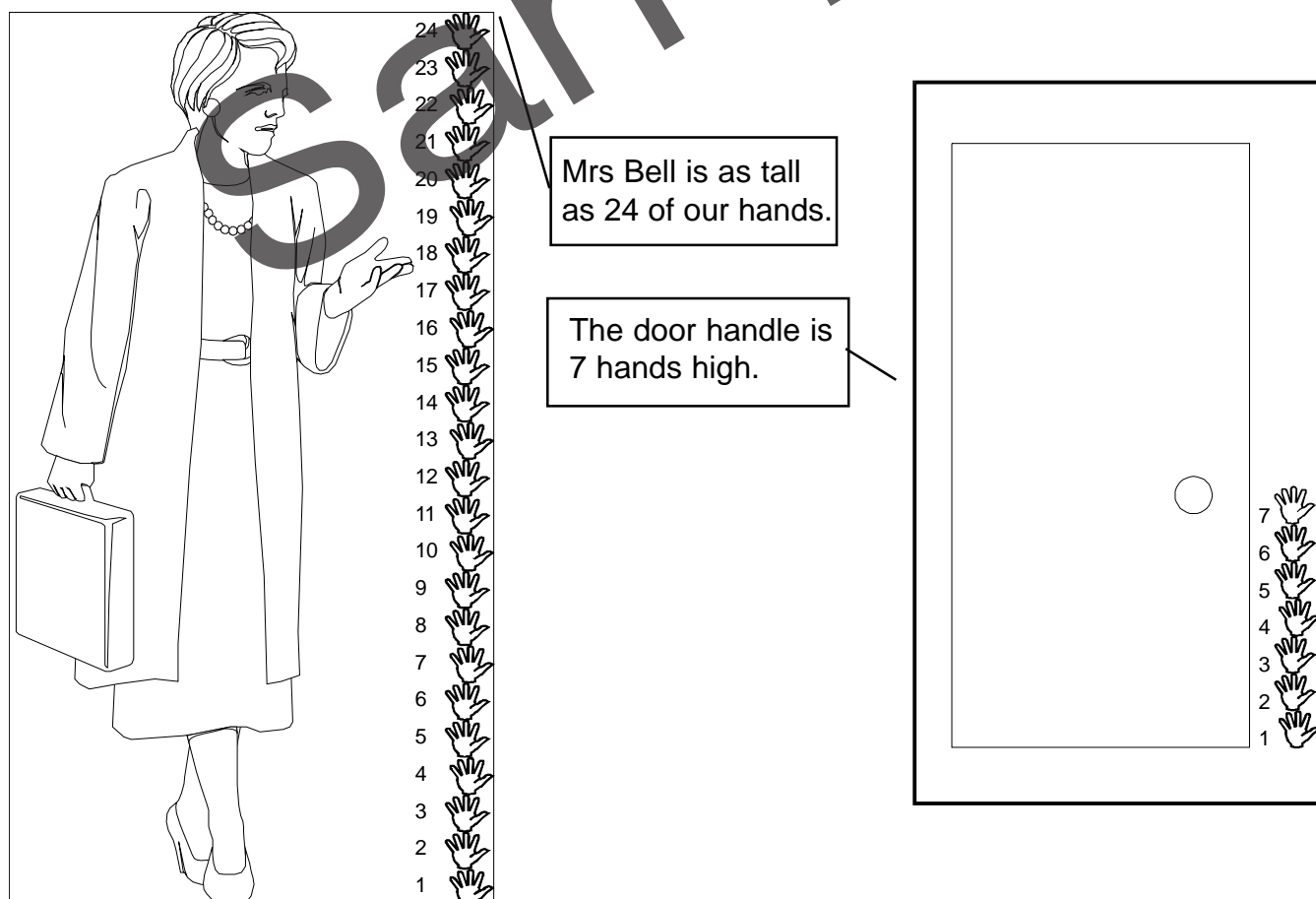
Read through the instructions and simple sentences with the class, using an A3 enlargement of the activity page.

Follow-up and extension ideas

Make painted hand prints of the class. Let the students draw around the teacher's body shape onto a large piece of paper. Make a display using cut out hand prints to show how many hands it takes to match the teacher's height. Students can then collage onto the teacher's shape for clothes and features.

Use painted hand prints to stick onto the wall next to light switch, door frame, book corner to show different heights. Make display sentences explaining why the hands are there.

E.g.



Use your s to measure

I am  s tall.

The table is  s high.

Our teacher is  s tall.

The door handle is  s high.

My name is

Teachers' Notes

**The winner is ..., The great ocean yacht race
and The animals' picnic race day.**

Whole class lead-up activity

Make your own simple set of 1st - 5th ribbons. With the children make a list of different types of races.

Ask questions like:

"If you were the number one person to cross the line you would be the winner. What position do we call the winner?"

Talk about the other names for 2nd - 5th. Conduct your own classroom races using classroom pets, snails, paint blobs down the window (try to choose racing items that don't move too fast so that it is easy to place 1st - 5th).

Activity page

You will need pencils, scissors and glue.

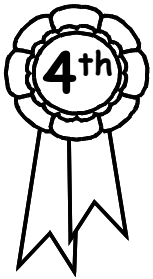
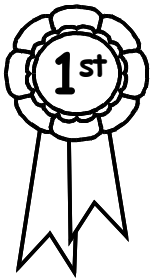
Read the instructions carefully with the students. The activity sheet *The winner is...* is ideal for the introductory lesson. When students have successfully completed this sheet they will be ready to attempt both *The great ocean yacht race* and *The animals' picnic race day*.

Follow-up and extension ideas

When students line up to come inside, ask individuals to find the 3rd person or the 2nd person etc.

The winner is...

Read the place written on the ribbon. Award the ribbon by circling the correct racer.



My name is