

## How does an estimate compare to an actual count?

Estimating is a skill that comes with practice. The best way to build estimating abilities is to follow the simple, “guess, and then do!”

- estimate the number of steps from the front door to the mailbox, and then walk to find out how many steps there are, counting as you go.
- estimate how many bags of milk your family uses in one week. Write the guess down on a piece of paper and attach it to a message board or refrigerator. Every time a bag of milk is used, put a checkmark beside the estimate. Count the checks at the end of the week: is the total more or less than estimated?

## How long does it take to do everyday activities?

Developing a sense of time is a skill that is often a challenge. These are easy ways to introduce a child to the different units of time.

- Make a “time line” of your child’s day. Use different colours to show the times he/she is at school, at home, and asleep.
- have your child do something for specified periods of time, such as wash his hands, brush his teeth, or even hold his breath.
- encourage your child to estimate how long it will take to do an everyday activity (such as walk to school, make his bed, etc.). Then time how long it actually takes. Was the estimate fairly accurate?

## How much does the temperature change over a few weeks?

Use an outdoor thermometer or record the daily temperature from a weather forecast over two weeks. Make a chart that includes the day, the temperature, and a “describing” word: cold, warm, hot, rainy, sunny, cloudy, etc.

- at the end of two weeks, examine the chart. What day had the lowest temperature? What day had the highest?
- Did the temperature have any affect on your child’s activities over those two weeks?



## What units of measurement are used to measure different things?

Make measuring real with these simple activities:

- ask for help with a recipe. Talk about the different units of measurements recipes use such as cups, teaspoons, or milliliters.
- show your child how you measure soap or fabric softener to put in the washing machine.
- ask your child to estimate whether a tall book will stand up on a bookshelf. Will it fit lying down?
- have your child estimate how many shoes will fit in a plastic bag, or how many clothespins will fit in a storage bag? Then try it and find out.