



Activity Idea

Activity	Cars and blocks
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Possibilities for maths learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Counting	<input type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardinality
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subitise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comparison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shape	<input type="checkbox"/> Pattern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spatial awareness

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A mixture of wooden blocks of different length ➤ Matchbox-sized or small cars (enough so that each child can have two cars) ➤ Nonstandard unit of measure (choose something that you already have; children can measure using cardboard tubes, lollipop sticks etc.) ➤ Extra blocks or small figures for extended play
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Activity Outline	<p>Show the children two matchbox-sized cars, each with a road made from wooden blocks (purposely make the roads unequal in length) and begin a story. For example, you might say: “Once upon a time, there were two cars that wanted to race each other. There was just one problem. One car had a long road, and the other car had a short road.”</p> <p>Can children identify which car has the shorter road and which car has the longer road?</p> <p>Ask the children what it is we can do so that the cars can race on the same length of road. (Solutions include adding more blocks to make the shorter road longer or taking blocks away to make the longer road shorter.) Provide a variety of wooden blocks and choose a child to come up and fix the problem using one of the methods discussed.</p> <p>Ask children how we can be sure that the race will be fair and both roads are will be the same length. (Answers could include, lining them up side by side or measuring to see if they are the same.)</p> <p>Suggest measuring as a way of checking and demonstrate how you can use a nonstandard unit of measure (for example, lollipop sticks). Demonstrate how to measure each length of road. Once the first road is measured, ask: “How many lollipop sticks long is the first road?” After the second road is measured, ask: “How many paper lollipops long is the second road?” Finally, ask: “Are the two roads equal in length? Do they have the same number of lollipops?”</p> <p>Encourage children to work in pairs and give them two matchbox cars and a set of wooden blocks. Ask them to create their own stories about the cars racing on the road, each creating a road.</p>
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	<p>Are the roads the same length or different? Encourage them to measure the roads using a nonstandard measure and to record which road is shorter and which road is longer and by how much.</p> <p>Can they make the roads the same length to make the race fair? Can they measure to check they are equal.</p>
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Extension Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Encourage children's comparative language in their play and exploration. Words such as, long, longer, longest, short, shorter, shortest and equal.✓ Provide more nonstandard units of measure so children develop and understanding of how they can use resources to check their accuracy.
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