



Activity Idea

Activity

Who is the tallest?

Possibilities for			
maths learning	Counting	Composition	Cardinality
	□ Subitise	□ Comparison	☑ Measure
	Shape	Pattern	Spatial awareness

Resources	 Measuring tape Height chart

Activity Outline	Choose three children of similar (but slightly different) heights. Do not let the children	
	stand up yet and ask all of the children to guess who is the tallest.	
	Record children's answers and ask them how they can check who is tallest. (Answers might include they can stand together, back to back or we can measure them.)	
	Pose some ludicrous suggestions to engage children in discussion such as, "Can we let one child stand on a stool and then measure everyone? Can we let one child lie down on the floor and then measure everyone? Why not?	
	Ask children what we have to do to make sure we measure appropriately, so that we can compare and find out who is tallest. Conclude that everyone has to be standing on the same level (floor) with no shoes on to make it fair.	
	Using a measuring tape or height chart on a wall, measure each child's height and identify whose predictions were correct. Then have the three children place themselves in order from shortest to tallest. Once they are standing in order, ask the children: "Who is tallest? Who is shortest? Is taller than? Is shorter or taller than?"	
	Choose another three children and carry out the activity.	
	Who is the tallest in the group?	

Extension	 Carry out the activity with blocks and other resources. Can children identity which
Opportunities	is the tallest and can they order them from tallest to smallest?