Measurement

Measure items at home using nonstandard units (hands, pencils, shoes, paper clips, etc.). Read books about measuring with standard units (inches, feet, pounds, etc.).

Measuring Distance
Have your child use the length of their foot to measure distance. Ask, “How many heel-to-toe footsteps will it take for you to walk across the room?” After finding the answer, ask, “Let’s measure again using normal steps. Will you need to take more steps or fewer steps to cross the room?” Talk about the difference—smaller steps means more steps and longer steps means fewer steps.

Nonstandard Measurements
Use a hand, pencil, spoon, or envelope to measure a variety of objects found in your home. For example, “How many spoons long is the rug?” Record your measurements on a sheet of paper.

Which Holds More?
Use kitchen containers to explore how much water they can hold. For example, you might ask, “If you fill the bottle and pour it into the saucepan, will it all fit? Will it overflow? Which holds more water, the bottle or the saucepan?”

Guess and Weigh
Give your child two items to hold, one in each hand. Which is heavier? Which is lighter? If you can, use a scale to check the guess.

Read
Take a trip to the library or find books online. Look for books about measurement that you and your child can read together. Here are some books to consider:

- *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni
- *How Big Is a Foot?* by Rolf Myllar

Waterford Books
You can find this book about measurement in the Resources & Activities tab at mentor.waterford.org.

- *Birds at My House* by Cynthia Belnap