

FAMILY MATH

Compare Weight

Dear Family,

Your child is learning to use their senses to experience and discuss a new measurable attribute, *weight*. Children discover that weight can be perceived through touch and by holding an object and feeling the pressure it puts on their body. They use those experiences to compare the weights of two objects by using new terms *heavier* and *lighter*. The limitation of using their senses to compare weights becomes clear as children hold objects that have very slight differences in weight, such as a pair of scissors and a stapler. Children learn to solve that problem by using a balance scale to determine which object is heavier and which is lighter.

Words We Are Learning

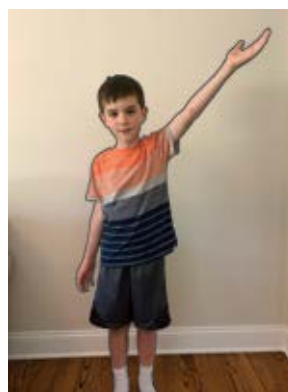
Weight

Heavy(ier)

Light(er)



Heavier



Lighter

Students use gestures to help remember new math words.

At-Home Activities

Activity Idea 1 Guess and Check

Show your child two items, such as a pillow and a book. Ask them to guess which is heavier and to explain their answer. Let them pick up the two items to check their guess. Try different quantities of different items.

For objects that are very close in weight, consider building a balance scale with cups or going to a park and using a seesaw as a balance scale. You can find items such as rocks, leaves, or toys to compare and find which is heavier. For example, “The rock is heavier than the leaf” or “The child is lighter than the adult.”

Activity Idea 2 Scavenger Hunt

Cut out the attached word cards and choose a household item such as a marker. Ask your child if they can find a different household item that would match one of the cards.



For example: “Can you find something that is heavier than the marker?”

“Can you find something lighter than the marker?”

“What about something that is about the same weight as the marker?”

Measuring Weight

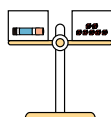
From the time they are babies, young children perceive measurable attributes by using their senses. Children begin to understand weight by connecting language to the pressure they feel on their bodies. A familiar experience of trying to lift something heavy, such as a stack of books, to something much lighter, such as a feather, provides context to their learning.

As children explore the weights of objects, they’ll discover that some comparisons are more difficult. Items that feel *about the same* in our hands are more challenging to compare. In response, children are introduced to the balance scale. This mathematical tool provides a clear way to compare the weights of two objects and determine which is heavier and which is lighter.

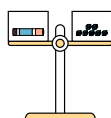
Children also determine how many of one kind of object weigh the same amount as a single object. For example, “The glue stick is the same weight as 7 cubes.” This exploration is an important foundation and bridge between comparative measuring and direct measuring in grade 3. An example of comparative measuring is “This object is heavier than that object.” An example of direct measuring is “This object weighs 2 grams.”



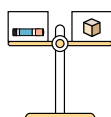
The  is the same weight as .



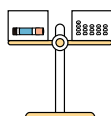
The glue stick is the same weight as 7 red cubes.



The glue stick is the same weight as 7 blue cubes.

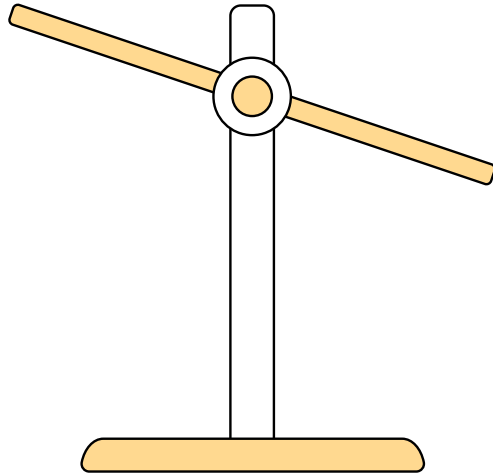


The glue stick is the same weight as 1 block.

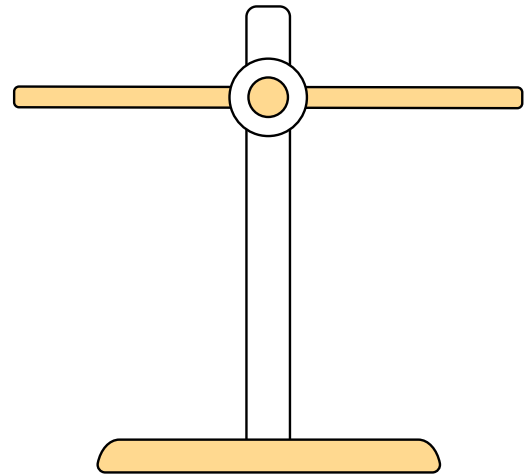


The glue stick is the same weight as 16 beans.

LIGHTER



SAME



HEAVIER

