

Purple Measuring

Introduction	Measuring and comparing are important skills in math readiness. This activity helps children develop those skills.
Goals	Practice measuring and comparing. Be able to distinguish between tall and taller, long and longer, and wide and wider.
Before You Start	Each teacher and child should have their own Purplinker. You will also need crayons or markers and paper. Have similar objects of two sizes, such as the teachers' chairs and the students' chairs, arranged so that the children have room to measure them.
Let's Begin	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain to the children that today they are going to learn to compare sizes. Tell them there are many ways to compare sizes, but today they will be looking at how tall, long or wide something is.2. Have them unfold their Purplinker's to their full length and demonstrate to them how they might measure the parts of both objects. For instance, you could say, "See how it takes 4 Purplinker segments to get from the seat of my chair to the floor and it takes 3 Purplinker segments to get from the seat of your chair to the floor. Lets compare and see which one is taller."3. Look around the classroom for other objects to compare and measure, such as desks, doors, windows, sheets of paper, shelves, storage containers and drawers.4. Have the children choose one set of objects and draw a tall and taller or long and longer or wide and wider version of each.
Furthermore	The students can show each other their drawings and repeat the words describing each object. You can read them the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, which reinforces the idea of size comparisons.
The Next Level	Start with using the same Purplinker segments concept to measure a chair. Explain height, width and etc. before starting. Use a chair as an example. Then show the children how to use the holes in the each segment to measure when the measurement falls between segments. This chair is 3 sections and 3 holes high. How high is the chair seat? Have the students go around the room and measure different objects and report their results.