



MEASUREMENT

*Children need the freedom and time to play.
Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.*

Kay Redfield Jamison

THE IOWA
CHILDREN'S
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4Cs
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Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

Actual Size shows several animals at their true life size and compares big and little things in the natural world around us. Beautiful illustrations appeal to children interested in animals.

Ages: 4 to 6 Years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Look at the cover of the book together. Ask a few children to compare their hand size to the size of the gorilla's hand on the book cover.
- Talk about the meaning of the word "actual" and be sure to stress that the illustrations are the actual size of the animal as you read.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) What's Your Actual Size? Game: Trace each child's body on paper rolls, cut out and ask each child to color in their body with eyes, mouth, clothes, etc. Now lay out all the children in order of length of their bodies and play a guessing game to identify each child. Once identified, ask the child to write their name on their paper self.
Kit Supplies: paper rolls, scissors, markers
- 2) Use the measuring tools included in the kit to measure things in the environment that are large and small; use sticky notes to write the measurements on each item.
Kit Supplies: measuring tapes, rulers, sticky note pads
Supplies You Can Provide: non-standard measuring tools (shoes, blocks, crayons, etc.)
- 3) Secure a measuring tape to a location that has plenty of space around it. Mark off the sizes of some or all of the animals from the book and lay the animal laminated photo next to the size. Ask kids to order the animal sizes from smallest to largest. You can spice up this play activity by asking children to find where their paper bodies fit into the animal sizes. Which animals are they larger than? Smaller than?
Kit Supplies: measuring tape, sidewalk chalk, laminated photo set of – Gorilla, Giant Squid, Alaskan Brown Bear, Ostrich, Giant Anteater, Saltwater Crocodile, Goliath Frog, Great White Shark, Siberian Tiger, Giant Walking Stick, African Elephant, Giant Gippsland Earthworm, Atlas Moth, Goliath Bird-eater Tarantula, Pygmy Mouse Lemur, Goliath Beetle, Pygmy Shrew, Dwarf Goby
- 4) Keep a Growth Chart to record height of each student throughout the year.
Kit Supplies: growth chart



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*People tend to forget
that play is serious.*

David Hockney

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Is A Blue Whale The Biggest Thing There Is? by Robert E. Wells

Is A Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There Is illustrates the concept of big, bigger, and biggest by comparing the physical measurements of large things like a blue whale, a mountain, a star, and the universe.

Explore the Book Ideas:

Ages: 4 to 6 years

- Before reading ask the children what they know about whales. Where do they live? What do they eat?
- After reading the book, have a discussion about size, using comparing and contrasting to help the children better understand the enormous size of the whale. Ask them if they think a blue whale would fit inside a house? A car? Ask them what else might be as large as a blue whale.

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Big, Bigger, Biggest Game: Arrange any collection of items in order of their size; children, shoes, canned food, boxes of food, bowls, books, etc.
- 2) How Big Is A Blue Whale? It's easiest to do this activity outside with lots of open space or on a long sidewalk/driveway. Pretend that a particular spot on the ground is the head of the whale. Ask a small group of students to stand on this spot while holding onto the end of the 100' long twine. Have a different student unravel the twine all the way to the end and ask another group of students to stand on that spot to represent the tail of a blue whale. Once the students see how long a blue whale is, ask them to predict how many children it would take, stretched end-to-end, to fill the length of a blue whale. Record everyone's prediction and test the predictions! Have the children lay end-to-end and measure out the 100 feet length. You can also measure the length of a blue whale using other objects like paper plates, sticks, etc.

Kit Supplies: 100' roll of twine

- 3) Blue Whale Body Parts: Talk about the different measurements of the body parts of a blue whale and measure them out.

Kit Supplies: Blue Whale Fun Facts Sheet

