

## How Many of Me?

Regional Educational Laboratories  
Appalachia, Central, Northwest

*From the National Center for Education Evaluation at IES*

In this activity, children measure various rooms or objects to answer the question “How many of me does it take to measure...?”

### Activity Instructions

1. Cut a piece of ribbon (or string) that is equal in length to the height of your child. You may also cut a piece of ribbon equal to your or another family member’s height.
2. You will call the length of ribbon by the name of the person whom you measure. For example, a ribbon cut to match the height of a child named Jacob is called “a Jacob.” A ribbon cut to the height of Grandma is called “a Grandma.”
3. Use the prompts and the ribbon to measure different rooms or objects around the house. Things to ask or do with your child:
  - “What are some things in this house you could use your ribbon to measure?”
  - “Let’s use the length of your ribbon to measure the length of the living room/kitchen counter/backyard. First, let’s estimate. How many ‘Jacobs’ do you think it will take to equal the length of the living room/kitchen counter/backyard? How many ‘Jacobs’ does (a family member) think it will take?”
  - Use the ribbon to count how many “Jacobs” would fit across the living room/kitchen counter/backyard. Whose estimates were closer?
  - “Which do you think is longer: the length or the width (point to the walls you are referring to) of the living room/kitchen counter/backyard? How could we measure to find out?”
  - Use the ribbon to measure the width of the living room/kitchen counter/backyard.
  - “Now that you’ve measured the length and width of the living room/kitchen counter/backyard, make a guess about how many ‘Jacobs’ it would take to equal the height of the living room/kitchen counter. How did you make your guess?”

**Learning Goal:** Children use informal measuring tools to make comparisons.

**Age Range:** 5–7 years old

**Materials:** String or ribbon

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