

Weight

Learning objective: The children use everyday language to talk about weight.

Key vocabulary: weight, weigh, heavy, heavier, heaviest, light, lighter, lightest, balance, balanced, unbalanced, lift, carry, object, scales, equal, unequal, guess, estimate, predict, test, compare, write, record, order, measure, measurement, gram, nearly

Further vocabulary: experiment, unit, milligram, kilogram, ounce, pound, stone, tonne

Get set



Have a selection of toys available and two lightweight cloth bags for each child. The children choose a toy for each bag, walk around and decide which feels heavier or lighter.

Talking points: Which toys will you choose? Which do you think might be heavier/lighter? Were there any surprises? What could we use if we didn't have the bags? When I go on holiday, my suitcase is really heavy.



Set up bucket balances for the children to explore, with a selection of objects to measure against pebbles. The children work out how many pebbles it takes to balance the weighing scales for each object.

Talking points: How heavy do you think this object is? Why are we measuring with pebbles each time? What if we didn't have any pebbles? I think feathers are really heavy and stones are light.



In small groups, the children bake a set of cupcakes using measured ingredients. They could use the bucket balance again as the recipe uses the same weight of every ingredient. The children balance 2 eggs in turn with flour, sugar and butter, then mix, spoon into cupcake cases, bake and enjoy!

Talking points: How can we make sure we have the same amount of each ingredient? What if we had 3 eggs? What if we only had 1 egg? I wonder what would happen if we couldn't measure the ingredients for our cooking.

Go



The children use bucket balances and a shoe as an object for comparing weights. The children find and select objects that they wish to weigh, and use the bucket balance to measure whether the other objects are heavier or lighter than the shoe. They then use the photocopiable activity sheet to categorise, draw and label the objects.

Working towards: The children can compare the weight of objects to the shoe, but may find it difficult to label their drawings.

Working beyond: The children can find one or more objects that are the same weight as the shoe, to balance the scales.

Finishing line: Introduce the children to formal measurement of weight through the discussion and use of electronic scales. You could use the scales to weigh the ingredients needed to put together a simple recipe.

Cross-curricular links



Physical development: Through weighing and mixing the ingredients for baking, the children handle equipment and tools effectively.



Literacy: Through labelling the objects that they weigh against the shoe, the children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds.

Home link



Activity book: Space and Measure pages 14 to 16