

## Mathematical moment: Measures with 4 & 5 year olds

### Becoming familiar with measuring tools

Children have been interested in the building work taking place near the school and visible from the classroom. The adults have been answering questions and having discussions about what the children have observed happening and invited a member of the building project into the classroom to answer some questions and talk to the children about the tools and machines they are using. The builder was asked to talk about the measurements they have to take and why.

As a result, a building site develops in the outside area. The adult makes sure that alongside the hardhats, blocks, planks, crates, wheelbarrows, sand, water, shovels, etc. there is also an office table with photographs and plans (donated by the builders) clipboards and a range of tape measures for them to explore. Adults spend time alongside the children, modelling using the measuring tapes and making notes of measurements as the children build.

Later, the children experiment mixing up 'concrete' with differing amounts of sand and water, measured in jugfuls. Instructions for different 'strengths' of concrete are written on a whiteboard by the children. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S\\_mwqo7UMEA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_mwqo7UMEA)

