

Mathematical moments with 4 and 5 year-olds:

Applying spatial reasoning and visualisation in a measurement context.

It was one of the children's birthdays. Debbie saw children writing cards and giving various objects to her as 'presents'. She asked a few children if they wanted to wrap their presents. She put out some boxes, tape and wrapping paper. Children worked out how much wrapping paper they needed by direct comparison and visualising.

Debbie showed them how to wrap up a present i.e. fold edges together, fold the four corners into triangles then fold again. Once the boxes were wrapped up, they decided to wrap other objects in the room. There was a lot of discussion about the 3D shapes they were wrapping and the 2D shapes they could see and how to fold the paper to wrap them effectively.



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