

## Mathematical moments: Measures with 3 & 4 year olds

### Fashion design



Ivanna has been completely immersed in designing clothes. She noticed the tailor dummy and asked, *How do I make a dress? Can you show me? I want a princess one.* I showed Ivanna the different resources and gave her some ideas of how she could join the material, e.g. paper clips, tape and pegs. Ivanna set out to work and spent the entire afternoon making her dress. Ivanna found that trying to wrap the material around the dummy was tricky, *My arms aren't long enough!* I talked to her about the importance of teamwork and that when we work together, it makes our job easier and often better. Soon, Ivanna enlisted a team of friends to help her. Soon she realised, *I can reach longer with lots of us- all the way around!*



Ivanna used the measuring tape to measure the size of the fabric she needed. *This bit needs to be long. I just need a short little bit here.* She carefully cut the ribbon in different lengths, depending on where she wanted to place it, *Short bit here... This needs to be so long!* Ivanna regularly praised her team members, telling them, *good teamwork. You're doing a good job.* She modelled and supported the process to some children who needed help, offering encouragement.

When Ivanna finished, she proudly called over each member of staff, one at a time, to show them her beautiful dress. She beamed with pride as they came to see her marvellous creation. *I did that you know! I'm so clever, aren't I?*



To support and develop Ivanna's interests further, fashion magazines and small scale dummies were added. Ivanna looked through the magazines and used this as inspiration for her dress. *I want to do a blue one, like this.* She found the fabric in the colour she wanted and set out to work. *This time it's smaller. Just a little one, I only need a bit of this [material].* We talked about our own clothes and Ivanna said, *It needs a little hole to put the head through.* Ivanna carefully placed the buttons on the dress, one at a time, taking care as to where she placed them. Whilst creating the dress, Ivanna used a variety of mathematical language relating to size and shape.



*I want only circle buttons. They all the same, like circles but some are bigger. I don't want massive ones because it's only a little dress.*

*Mam has a dress like this, nearly at the floor. It's really long. I just have ones that are shorter, like my school one.*

*This dress won't fit me... it might fit my Barbie!*

I think that we may have a future fashion designer in the making!

