

Measurement 1, Introducing centimetres

Caterpillar Lengths

How this will help your child

- This activity will help your child to compare the lengths of different shapes.
- It will also allow your child to practise using the 'greater than' (>) and 'less than' (<) symbols.

Words and phrases to use

length, longer, longest, shorter, shortest, longer than..., shorter than..., greater than, less than

You will need

- Pair of scissors

During the activity, look at what your child can do

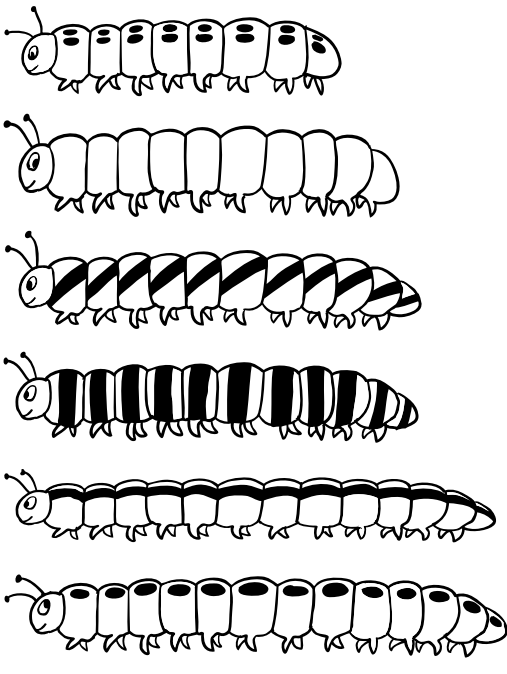
- Put different-sized pieces of paper in size order, by length.
- Use the 'greater than' (>) and 'less than' (<) symbols.

What to do

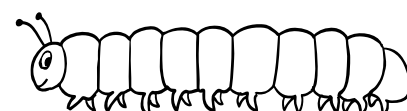
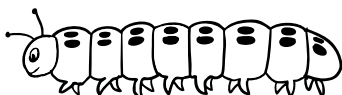
- Cut out the caterpillars and symbol cards from the Caterpillar Lengths sheet.
- Talk to your child about the length of each caterpillar (length will be the longest side each time).
- Ask your child to order the caterpillars according to length, from shortest to longest. **1**
- Next, ask your child to shuffle the caterpillars around.
- Then choose two caterpillars and use the symbol cards to compare them. Remind your child that the 'greater than' and 'less than' symbols are like the open mouth of a hungry bird which always wants to eat the biggest thing. **2**
- Encourage your child to say what they notice about the lengths of the caterpillars, e.g. one caterpillar is 'longer than' or 'shorter than' the other caterpillar.
- Repeat this activity using other caterpillars and symbols from the sheet.

Next steps...

- Compare and order the length of some household objects, e.g. a belt, a trainer.



1



2

Caterpillar Lengths

