



Activity Ideas

Stuart J. Murphy
MathStart®

The Best Bug Parade

Comparing Sizes

Level 1 Ages 3+

www.stuartjmurphy.com

Comparing sizes is a simple form of classification and is necessary for the development of measurement skills.

In Ladybug's garden, everything is relative. Who's big? Bigger? Biggest? Long, longer, longest? Short, shorter, shortest? Line up! It's time for the best bug parade of all. Illustrated by Holly Keller.

DC Standard 4.3, Measurement:

Children use a variety of nonstandard and standard tools to measure and use appropriate language terms to describe size, length, weight and volume.

- Read the story together and describe what is going on in each picture. Ask questions throughout the story, such as “Do the bugs look the same or different?” and “How do they look different?” “Which one is bigger?” Which is one is smallest?”
- Together, draw and color some of your own imaginary bugs. Cut them out and help the children to arrange them in order of size. Then line them up for your own best bug parade!
- Look at things in the real world—family members, pets, furniture, plates, flowers — and discuss their size relationships. “Who is bigger?” “Which is smallest?” Extend the concept by asking such questions as “Who is older?” “Who is youngest?” “Which is darker?” “Which is lightest?”
- Nature Walk: Go for a walk together in a nearby park and bring along a tape measure or ruler. Measure and compare plants. “Which is taller?” “Which has wider leaves?” “Which is the smallest flower?”

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