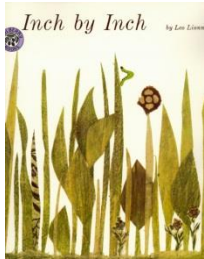


# Early Learning Fun!

## Lines and Measurements

### Introduction:

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#### Read *Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni

To keep from being eaten, an inchworm measures a robin's tail, a flamingo's neck, and a toucan's beak. When a nightingale asks the inchworm to measure his song, the inch worm outsmarts the bird by inching along the path as the bird sings. The inchworm eventually inches out of sight and to safety. This book is a great introduction to measurement!

### Activity #1:

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#### Inchworm Flannelboard



- Hand out pieces of paper and writing utensils.
- Place apple clipart on the flannelboard and tell the children that we're going to measure the apple using inchworms.
- Have children write down their estimate for how many inchworms it'll take to measure the apple.
- Measure the apple using inchworms.
- Repeat with larger objects.
- Not only is this a great activity for teaching measurement, but it also provides an opportunity to involve WRITING in the program!

### Activity #2:

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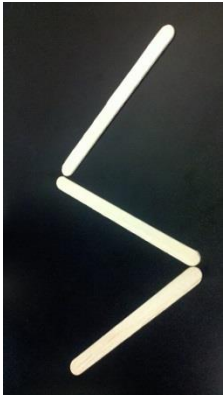


#### Rulers are for Measuring

- Demonstrate how to use a ruler for measuring things.
- Hand out paper rulers and yarn and instruct children to use the rulers to measure the yarn.
- If children still have room on their paper, they can write down the yarn measurements.
- Measure other things in the room: books, toys, your foot, etc.
- Children can take the paper rulers home with them and continue measuring things throughout the day!

## Activity #3:

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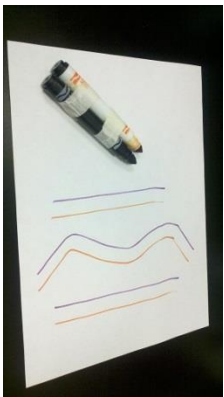


### Shapes and Lines with Popsicle Sticks

- Hand out three popsicle sticks to each child.
- Ask them if they can make a straight line with the popsicle sticks. How about a zig zag line?
- Can they make any shapes with the popsicle sticks? What if you give them each one more popsicle stick? What shapes can they make with 4 popsicle sticks?
- If you're feeling very ambitious, you can see how many popsicle sticks it takes to get from one side of the room to the other.

## Activity #4:

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### Parallel Lines

- Prior to the program, tape two markers together using masking tape. Make enough for each child to use one.
- Explain to children that parallel lines never intersect – or cross – one another.
- Demonstrate how to make parallel lines using the taped together markers.
- Allow children to make their own parallel lines on paper.
- Children will probably scribble to the point where lines are intersecting, but that's okay. It'll give you the opportunity to talk about other kinds of lines: curvy lines, zig zags, loop de loops, etc.

## Closing Activity:

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### Read *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins

This nonfiction book is perfect to share with the preschool (or even older!) crowd. It depicts various animals, from the tiniest fish to the giant squid, at their actual size! A few of the animals in this book are a little creepy (hello, tarantula!) so you might consider skipping those animals if you have a sensitive crowd, but I think most older kids will love this book, creepy animals and all. One activity I like to do with a smaller crowd for this book is have the children compare their hands to that of a gorilla.