



## Skeleton Handprint

Trace a hand, compare and trim cotton swabs, then arrange them as finger bones for a skeleton handprint.

### Helps Your Child Grow



#### Fine Motor

Comparing, adjusting, and placing cotton-swab “bones” on the handprint gives your child practice coordinating visual judgment with precise hand movements.



#### Emergent Mathematical Thinking

Comparing each cotton swab with a finger helps your child notice differences in length.



## What You'll Need



Black Cardstock



Washable Paint



Cotton Swabs



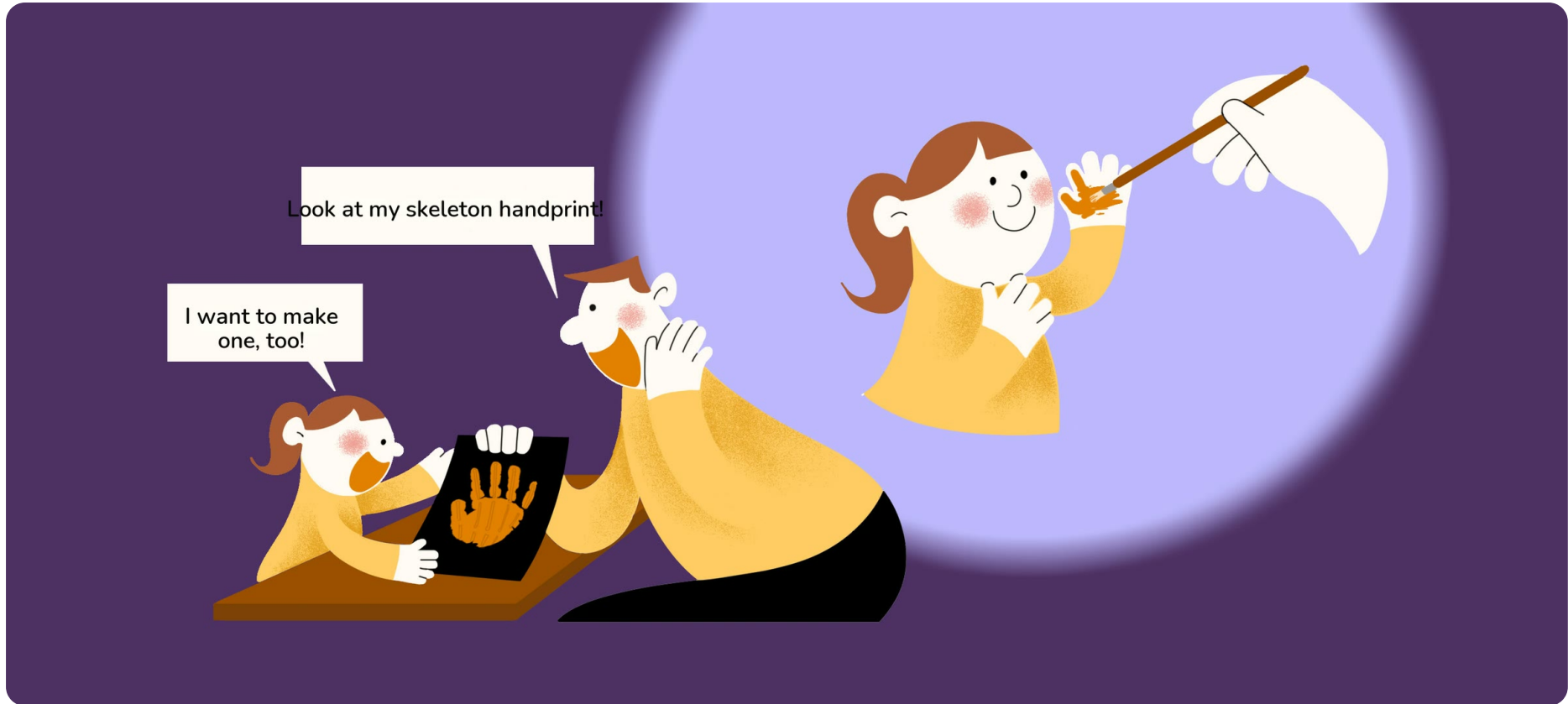
Scissors



Glue

## What You'll Need

1. Black construction paper
2. washable paint
3. white cotton swabs
4. scissors
5. glue



## Make a Handprint

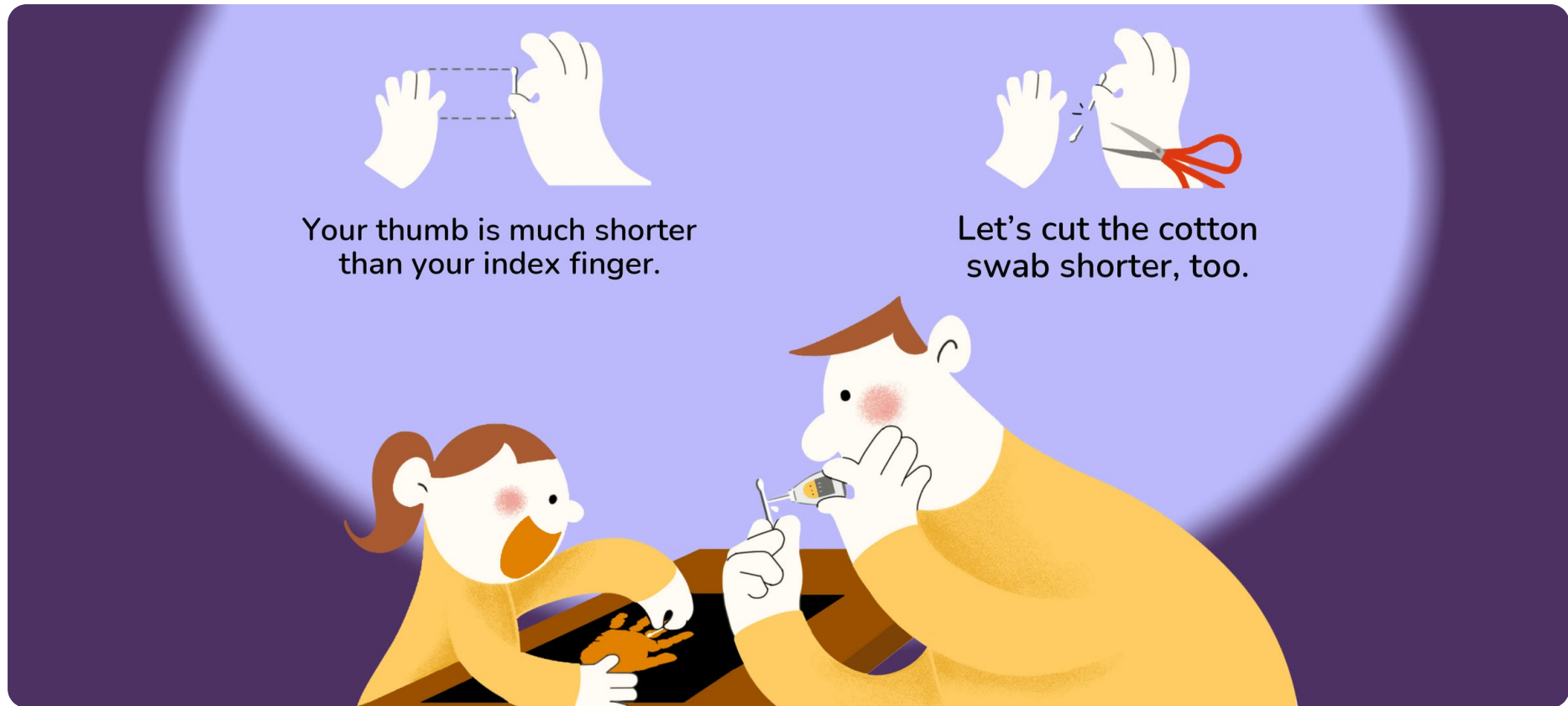
Show a skeleton handprint you made ahead of time by gluing cotton swabs onto a handprint as bones. Paint your child's palm and fingers, then help them press a clear handprint onto the paper.

### Observations

- Shows curiosity about the cotton swabs on your handprint and wants to make one
- Notices the brush moving back and forth across their hand

### Tips

- Brush the paint on slowly so your child can notice how it feels - perhaps cool or ticklish.
- Adding cotton-swab "bones" makes this handprint surprising and may motivate your child to join in.



## Compare and Trim the Bones

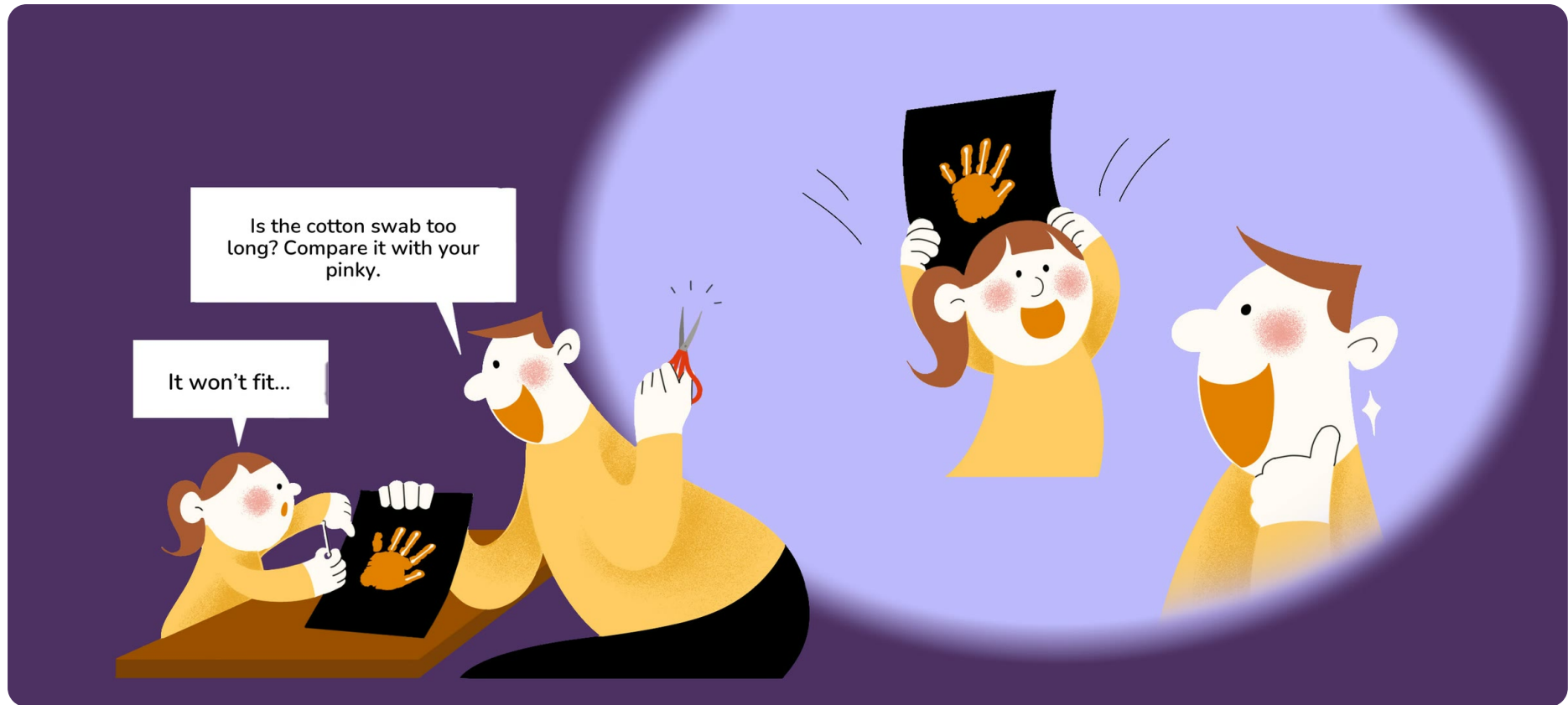
Next, add “bones” to the handprint. Invite your child to compare a cotton swab with each finger and decide whether it is too long or too short. Use their comparison to cut a suitable length and add glue, then let your child place it on the matching finger.

### Observations

- Compares a cotton swab with a finger to see which is longer
- Pinches a cotton swab and places it on the handprint

### Tips

- This is also a chance to learn the names of the fingers as you work: ‘This is your thumb. This is your index finger - the one you use to point.’
- If your child is unsure what to do, demonstrate more closely: “Your thumb is shorter than the cotton swab, so we need to cut the swab shorter.”
- Compare several cotton swabs with different fingers so your child can see how their lengths differ.



## Complete the Skeleton Handprint

As you glue the cotton swabs, name each finger and compare the swab with the printed finger. If a bone is too long, trim it together and compare again.

### Observations

- Aligns a cotton swab with a finger and glues it in place
- Points to the correct finger when you say a name such as “index finger”

### Tips

- Each time, line up the cotton swab with the matching finger and check whether its length fits.
- Keep naming the fingers as you compare: “This is the middle finger’s bone. Does it fit?”
- Describe each finger from several angles: how long it is, where it sits, and what it can do. More specific features help your child build a clearer understanding.