



Pretend Roller-Coaster Ride

Measure, sort, and send the toy animals on a roller-coaster ride.

Helps Your Child Grow



Measurement

Measuring toy animals with blocks and comparing the results gives your child practice using a nonstandard unit and sorting by height.



Writing

Creating a height-requirement sign gives your child practice using a simple drawing or mark to communicate a rule.

Steps

- Build a pretend roller coaster with blocks and invite the toy animals to ride.
- Introduce a playful rule: animals taller than five blocks may ride independently, while shorter animals ride with a grown-up.
- Make a simple height-requirement sign together, showing a measuring line and five blocks, so your child has a visible standard to check.
- Demonstrate how to measure one animal. Begin at its feet and stack blocks to the top, then count how many blocks tall it is.
- After measuring each animal, compare the result with the sign. Is it taller or shorter than five blocks? Sort the animals into the matching groups.
- Now let your child take over the measuring and comparing.
- When every animal has a group, send them all on the pretend roller coaster.

Tips

- Once the measuring method is familiar, add other pretend rides and measure for each one with a different unit, such as blocks, craft sticks, toy ducks, or hand spans.
- Try three groups: shorter than one hand span cannot ride yet; one to two hand spans rides with a grown-up; taller than two hand spans rides independently.

Observations

- Checks whether a toy animal is taller or shorter than five blocks
- Draws five blocks on a sign to show the height requirement