

Lesson 7: Tools in My Environment

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- What is a safe and healthy environment?
- What do homes provide for the people who live in them?

📖 Facts and Definitions

- A **tool** is something we use to help us and make it easier to do a task.
- A **ruler** is a tool we use to measure how long something is.

⦿ Skills

- Identify tools in the environment and how we use them (S)
- Sort and classify objects by one attribute (M)
- Measure objects (M)
- Read and write numbers (M)

✂ Materials

- grocery sack
- ruler (kit)
- tape measure (kit)

Introduction

Review the idea that the best environment for people and animals is one where they can live and grow. People also want to live in a home environment that will make life easier for them. Ask your child if she can think of anything that makes life easier for her or for you.

Ask your child to tell you what she needs to live and grow. Your child may say things like toys and books. If your child mentions things of this nature, ask her if she could live without them.

Remind your child we all **MUST** have food, some sort of shelter, and water. Clothing is also something that humans need. In addition, humans need to have other people whom they can care about and talk with.

Explain to your child that in our environment we have things that make life easier for us. **Tools** are objects found in our environment that make it easier for us to do everyday things. For example, a comb helps us fix our hair, and a fork helps us eat our dinner.

Activities

Activity 1: A Tool Scavenger Hunt

Ask your child the following questions:

- What if we didn't have pens or pencils?
- What would our house be like if we didn't have any eating utensils?
- What if we didn't have any tools to help us fix our home (hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, etc.)?

For this activity, give your child a grocery sack. Explain to her that she is going to go around her home environment and fill the sack with tools that make life easier for her or other members of the family. Walk with your child through the kitchen, bathroom, and her bedroom (a garage or a workshop would also be a great place to explore).

Encourage her to look in drawers and cabinets to locate tools. Tell your child that you want her to find between eight and ten tools. Remind her that tools help us do things. Examples of tools: scissors, knives/spoons/forks, pencils/pens/crayons, toothbrush, hairbrush/comb, screwdriver, back scratcher, can opener.

Note: Your child might pick up things like a book or a picture. If she selects something that is not a tool, ask her if the object helps us to do a task.

Activity 2: Sorting Tools

Ask your child to take each tool out of the bag and examine it closely. For each tool, ask her the following questions:

- What is the tool used for?
- How does the tool work? (If your child does not know how to use it, demonstrate how the tool can be used.)

Ask your child to sort the tools in the following ways:

- Tools used every day vs. tools used once in awhile
- Large tools vs. medium tools vs. small tools

Activity 3: Measuring Tools

Place each tool on the floor or on a table. Then ask your child to put the tools in order from the shortest to the longest. Remind her that the biggest object is not always the longest object. Discuss the difference between longest and biggest.

Next, ask your child to choose three tools from her collection. Encourage her to choose tools that are less than 9 inches long. Record the tools she chooses on the sheet called "Measuring Tools." If your child can write the names of the tools independently, encourage her to do so, or you can write the names on another sheet and let her copy the letters. Let her attempt to record at least the beginning letter, and then encourage her to sound out the words and identify letter sounds as you write them. Next, read the names of the tools with your child using her finger to point at the letters as you sound them out.

Show your child the ruler and tape measure and explain that we use these tools to help us decide how long or short objects are. When we are deciding how long or short something is, we call it "measuring" the object. Give your child an example of when you use a ruler to help you measure something.

Now show your child the inches on the ruler and tape measure and explain that each dark, long line shows an inch. Use the tape measure to measure your child and tell her how many inches tall she is. You can also measure her hand, arm, or finger.

Help your child measure the three tools she chose. Lay each tool on the sheet beneath the ruler on the activity page. If the tool is too long, you can use the ruler or tape measure. Then mark the end of the tool

and look at how many inches it is on the ruler. In the blank beside each tool, your child can record the number of inches. Round to the nearest inch. For example, "The comb is about 8 inches, a little more than 8 inches, or almost 8 inches."

If your child is not able to write the numbers 5-12, let her practice writing these numbers over the next few days. Each day, encourage her to practice writing three or four numbers.

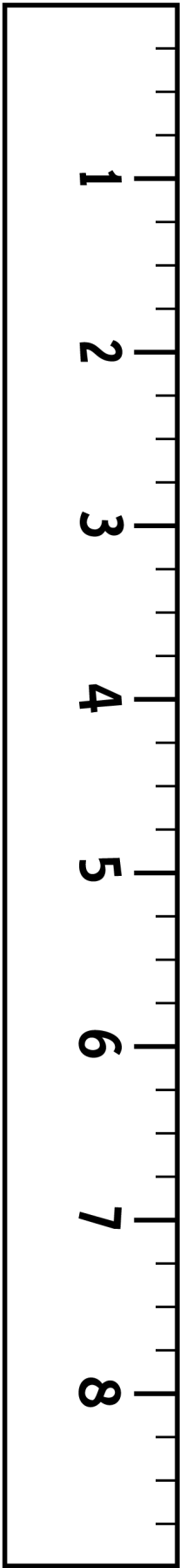
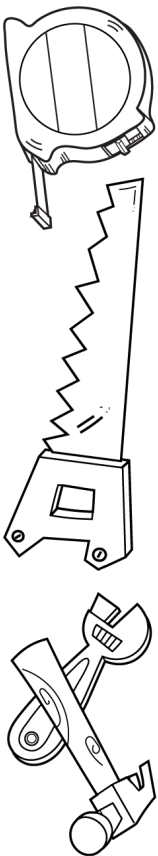
Activity 4: Handwriting

Ask your child to use the handwriting sheet to practice the letter *li* and the words *it* and *inch*. Your child can write or copy sentences that contain the *i* words.

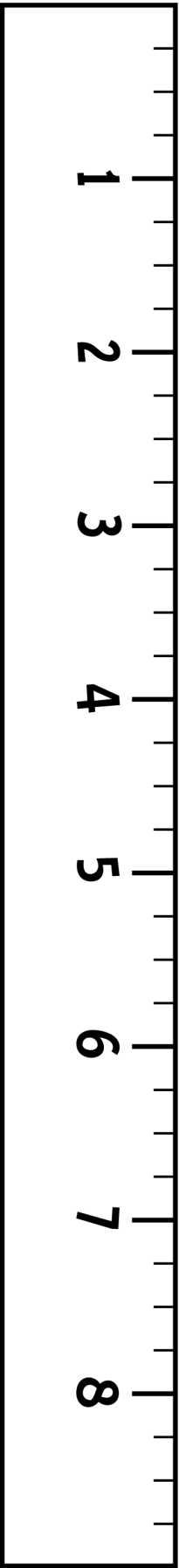
Wrapping Up

Ask your child to tell you what a tool is. Then ask her what tools she most often uses or sees family members using. Ask your child what tool(s) she used today to measure the tools she found. Then review the idea that rulers and tape measures can measure the length of an object in inches.

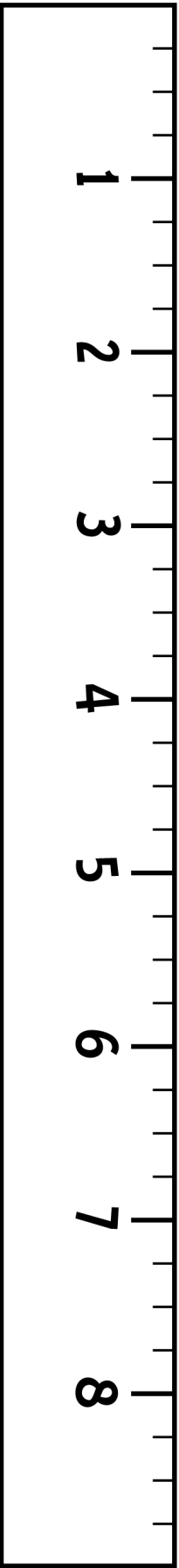
Measuring Tools



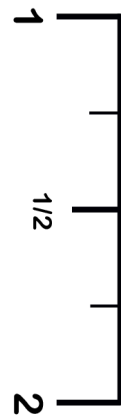
Tool #1: _____ inches



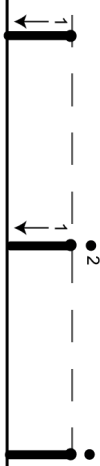
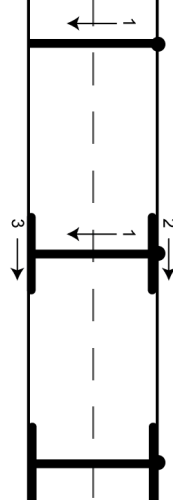
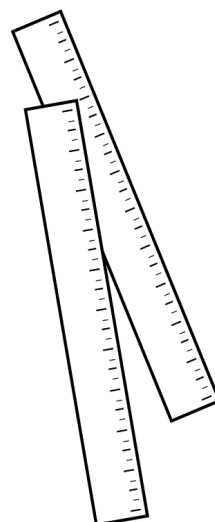
Tool #2: _____ inches



Tool #3: _____ inches



Ii



inch