

CHILDREN MAKING RESOURCES FOR MEASUREMENT

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TARGET AUDIENCE:	Foundation Phase teachers
DURATION:	2-hour workshop slot
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:	30

ABSTRACT

The measurement content area in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement emphasises informal measurement in Foundation Phase. Measurement includes: time, mass, length, capacity and volume and is revisited each year in each grade. The introduction of formal units is delayed. Why? Many teachers think about measurement as using standard units, but lack the measurement equipment in this school. How can teachers make use of recycled and easily available materials to create measuring instruments which are then used for meaningful mathematics activity and discussion in Foundation Phase classrooms?

MOTIVATION FOR THE WORKSHOP:

Imagining how to engage learners with informal measurement (beyond using their hands for length) can be challenging for teachers. Finding ways to experience measuring and estimating in contexts with few resources can be another difficulty. In this workshop teachers will make some simple but effective instruments for measuring in Foundation Phase classrooms which they will be able to take home with them. These ideas can then be used with the children in their classes.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT OF WORKSHOP

The workshop will include:

- Making a meter stick;
 - Making a trundle wheel;
 - Ideas for overcoming problems with the comparison of mass of objects;
 - Informal measures for volume and capacity; as well as area.
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