



Storytime Activity Guide

Actual Size

Created and illustrated by Steve Jenkins

In *Actual Size*, we meet animals of different sizes. Animals are drawn to scale so children can see how they measure up to each animal. Each page includes interesting facts and physical dimensions of the animal.

Did you know?

A good foundation in **early math** prepares children for “math thinking,” and for later academic success. **Early Math** includes number sense, classifications and patterning, measurement, mathematical reasoning, and geometry (shapes). While reading *Actual Size*, practice comparing sizes by using relational language (bigger, smaller, close, far) to develop your child’s early math skills.



Words to Practice

bigger
smaller
taller
shorter
more
less

Talk about it!

- Help your child compare animals of different sizes. Ask questions like: “Which one do you think is bigger, smaller, shorter, longer? How do you know?”
- Encourage your child to measure the animals using different body parts. Say things like: “Let’s use your hand to measure the size of the animals. How big is this animal compared to your hand?”
- Play with your child as you explore how your child’s size compares to the size of the animals. How does their foot compare to the elephant’s foot? What about yours? Which one is bigger?

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qrco.de/ActualSize

Create!

Draw and Measure YOUR actual size!

Materials needed:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Measuring tape
- Popsicle sticks
- Any other object you want to use to measure (ie rocks, leaves, blocks, toy cars, etc.)

1. Trace your child's body with the chalk on the sidewalk and help them decorate the outline.
2. Help them measure their body with the popsicle sticks or any other uniform object you want to use to measure.
3. Note down the measurements.
4. Measure their body using various other objects such as rocks, blocks, or even step (feet).
5. Now help your child measure their body with a measuring tape. Note down the measurement in inches and centimeters using to make their picture.
6. Discuss and compare measurement. Ask :
 - How long is your body in popsicle sticks? How long is it in steps?
 - How long is your body in feet? In inches?
 - Did you notice that even though your body is the same length, the measurements are different depending on the objects we measured with? Why do you think that is?
 - Did you need more popsicle sticks or feet to measure your body? What if we measured it with something bigger?



Play: "Which is bigger?"

After comparing the size of the animals in the book, find objects to compare with your child at home. Shoes are a good example. Gather 5 different shoes from around the house and help your child line them up in order from smallest to biggest. Do the same with stuffed animals. Help your child practice comparing sizes throughout the day, using words like smaller, bigger, shorter, longer, wider, and narrower to describe the objects you are comparing.

