

Storytime Activity Guide

Big Bug

written and illustrated by Henry Cole

Beginning with a bug, various objects are revealed as being big and small in comparison with other objects on a farm under the big, big sky.

Did you know?

A good foundation in early math prepares children for “math thinking” and for later academic success. Early Math includes number sense, classification and patterning, measurement, mathematical reasoning, and geometry (shapes). While reading *Big Bug*, notice how things look big or small depending on what they’re next to. Talk with your child about scale and use relational language (big, small, bigger, smaller) to develop your child’s early math skills.



Words to Practice

Big/bigger

Small/smaller

Compare

Talk about it!

While sharing *Big Bug*, talk with your child about which objects look bigger or smaller. This simple conversation supports comparison, early math language, and observation skills.

- Which looks bigger, the bug or the leaf?
- What happens when we compare the leaf to the tree?
- Can you find something at home that looks big next to one object but small next to another?
- What do you see that looks small on this page but might look big somewhere else?
- What’s something that looks big to you but small to an adult?

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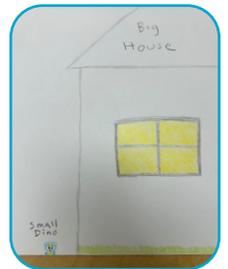
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Create!

In this activity, your child will imagine how everyday objects change in size depending on what they're compared to. Using personal objects makes the math idea of scale more meaningful, because children connect size comparisons to things they see and use every day. An everyday object can look giant to a tiny insect or teeny tiny next to a big animal.

- Materials needed:**
- Paper
 - Pencils, crayons, or markers
 - A familiar object for inspiration (shoe, toy, stuffed animal, etc.)

1. Ask your child to pick a familiar item, like their shoe, or their favorite toy or stuffed animal. Any object they see or use regularly.
2. Invite your child to think playfully: "What would it look like if an elephant tried to wear your shoe?" "What about a ladybug?"
3. Encourage your child to draw what they imagine. Offer help if they ask for it, but let their ideas lead the drawing.
4. While looking at the picture together, use math words like big, small, bigger, smaller, huge, tiny.



Play

Invite your child to use their body to show what different sizes and shapes look like. This makes learning math words fun and active. Ask your child:

- Can you make yourself as big as a tree? As small as a bug?
- Can you show me taller? Shorter?
- Can you stretch to be wider? Thinner?
- What about long like a snake then short like a caterpillar?
- Can you make your arms look heavier, then pretend they're light as a feather?

