Convert Measurement Units

Dear Family,

This week your child is learning to convert from one measurement unit to another.

Your child is learning to make measurement conversions, such as:

- from one unit of length to another, using kilometers, meters, and centimeters.

- from one unit of weight to another, using pounds and ounces.

- from one unit of capacity to another, using gallons, quarts, and cups.

You can describe the same measurement using different units. For example, 1 kilometer describes the same distance as 1,000 meters. The length is the same. The units used to measure the length are different, so the number of units in the measurement is different, too.

Kilometers are a larger unit of measurement than meters. Since there are 1,000 meters in each kilometer, you can multiply the length, or distance, in kilometers by 1,000 to convert the measurement to meters.

> 4.5 kilometers = ? meters
> $4.5 \times 1,000 = 4,500$
> 4.5 kilometers = 4,500 meters

Meters are a smaller unit of measurement than kilometers. Since 1 kilometer is equivalent to 1,000 meters, you can divide the length, or distance, in meters by 1,000 to convert the measurement to kilometers.

> 6,700 meters = ? kilometers
> $6,700 \div 1,000 = 6.7$
> 6,700 meters = 6.7 kilometers

Your child is becoming familiar with the relative sizes of units by identifying which units are larger and which units are smaller. Also, as your child practices converting units, they are applying multiplication and division skills.

Invite your child to share what they know about converting measurement units by doing the following activity together.

ACTIVITY CONVERTING MEASUREMENT UNITS

Do this activity with your child to convert measurement units.

Materials ruler or measuring tape, sheet of paper

Play a game with your child to convert measurements in real-life situations.

- Choose a place to mark a starting line. It can be inside your home or outside. Make sure there is enough open space if you choose to play inside.

- Make a paper ball by crumpling a sheet of paper.

- Have your child stand at the starting line and toss the paper ball.

- Together, measure the length of the toss to the nearest foot. Then convert the length of the toss from feet to inches. [1 foot = 12 inches] So, multiply the number of feet by 12 to find the number of inches.

- Take turns tossing the ball, measuring, and converting measurements.

Look out for other real-life opportunities to practice converting measurements with your child. You might convert measurements when you use a recipe, do a craft project together, make a home repair, or plan a trip.

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