

A Cool Place to Measure

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In Grade 2, students learn about measuring area by covering surfaces with non-standard units (e.g., index cards, sheets of paper), and then counting the numbers of units.

Provide an opportunity to measure area in your home.

Explain to your child that some families cover the refrigerator door with pieces of art created by family members. Show your child a letter-sized sheet of paper and ask him or her to imagine that it is a piece of art. Ask: "If you had several pieces of art that are the same size as this piece of paper, how many pieces of art, do you think, would fit on the refrigerator door?"

After your child has explained an estimate, have him or her find the number of sheets of paper that fit on the refrigerator door. Your child might need to tape several sheets of paper to the door to find an answer. Encourage him or her to avoid gaps and overlays.

Extend the activity by showing your child a different-sized piece of paper and asking him or her to find the number of pieces of art of the same size that would fit on the refrigerator door.

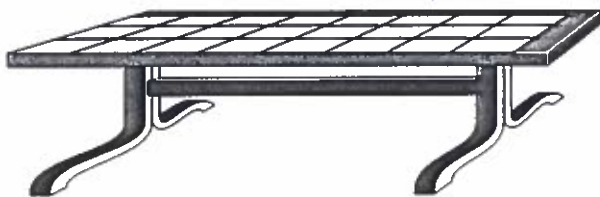
Thank you for helping your child measure area in your home.

Measuring Area at Home

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our class has been learning about measuring area. To measure area, the students cover a surface with objects (e.g., square tiles, cards, sheets of paper), and then count the number of objects needed to cover the surface. The objects that students use to cover a surface are referred to as non-standard units.

Help your child measure the area of a surface at home (e.g., table, bed, mat). Together with your child, choose non-standard units of one kind (e.g., recipe cards, playing cards, tissues, sheets of paper) that can be used to cover the surface. Have your child estimate the number of units that will be needed to cover the surface. Next, have your child cover the surface with the units and then count the number of units needed to cover the surface. **No gaps or overlays when lining up your units.*



You may discover that the units do not fit exactly on the surface being measured. Point out that the measurement is approximate (e.g., "The area of the table is *about* 24 sheets of paper").

Have your child use different non-standard units to measure the area of other surfaces. Then discuss with your child how some non-standard units are more appropriate than others for measuring some surfaces. For example, playing cards are an appropriate non-standard unit for measuring the area of a small mat but are less appropriate for measuring the area of a large bed.

Thank you for helping your child measure area.