

Comparing Objects Using Scales: At Home

From Developing Math Concepts in Pre-Kindergarten
by Kathy Richardson

Goals:

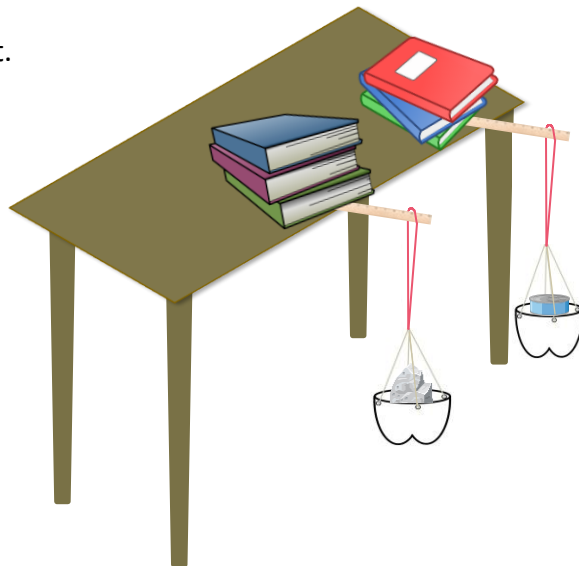
- To become familiar with weighing
- To explore aspects of 'heaviness' and 'lightness' by seeing what happens when objects are placed in the scales
- To compare the weight of two objects
- To notice that bigger is not always heavier

Materials:

- Scales (see directions to make homemade scales)
- Variety of objects to weigh, such as rocks, oranges, potatoes, clay, small cans of food and small containers of dry items such as beans, rice, sand or unpopped popcorn

Procedures:

1. Ask the child to choose two objects. For example: the child might compare a rock and a can of tuna.
2. The child puts one object in a scale, then predicts if the other object will be heavier or lighter than the first object.
3. The child then checks to find out.
4. Repeat using other objects.



What to watch for:

Are the children aware of differences in weight or are they just intrigued with the experience of weighing without paying particular attention to what they are weighing?

Do they begin to compare objects intentionally?

Do they make comments on what they have found out?