

Maths • Topic: capacity.

This week your child will be learning about capacity (the measure of how much containers can hold). This is best done by means of games and activities using concrete materials. Allow your child to fill and empty a range of containers that are in your home.

The following is the language your child needs to know around the topic of capacity; how much? How much water is needed? Full, empty, holds more, holds less, not as much, nearly as much, nearly full, up to the top/brim etc.

- Give your child some clean, empty plastic bottles/containers that are in your house. The bottles should be different sizes but relatively similar in shape. Ask him/her to arrange them in order of which holds most/least and ask them to tell you why they arranged them in that order. After the discussion, have your child test whether his/her estimations were correct by filling each one with water.

Measure the amount of water that was in each container by using a measuring jug. Now do the same experiment again but this time the bottles should have different shapes but be relatively similar in capacity. (this is important as many children wrongly think that the shape of the bottle determines the actual capacity e.g. that a tall bottle holds more than a small bottle)

This lesson is best completed outside. Have lots of fun!