

Focus plan for Problem solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Activity -Scarf Solutions -

Learning intention

Order two or three items by length.

Use developing mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems.

Resources

3 thin strips of fabric of various lengths

3 soft toy/small world animals of different sizes

How the activity will be carried out

Ask the children to come and help you solve a problem. The three toys want to go outside. It is cold so they will each need to wear a scarf. But the toys can't agree on which scarf they should wear. Can the children help? Ask them for some ideas on how the toys should decide on which scarf to wear. Support them with questions about the sizes of the toys and the lengths of the scarves. Talk about which toy is bigger/smaller and which scarf is longer/shorter. How can we tell if one scarf is longer than the other? Ask the children to put the scarves in order starting with the longest and ending with the shortest. Now line up the toys, starting with the biggest and ending with the smallest. Can they match a toy to a scarf? Let the children wrap the scarves round the toys and take them outside for a play.

Questions to ask/Language to use

Long, short, longer, shorter, big, small, bigger, smaller, match

Differentiation (Birth to Three)

Use only two toys and two scarves and make one obviously bigger/longer than the other.

Extension

Make the toys and the scarves quite close in size so the children really have to think about it when they compare the sizes. Add 2 more toys and scarves to the problem.

Evaluation