Measurement adds a real-world connection to mathematics and provides practice for counting and learning basic computation. In Chapter 10, your child will learn to measure objects and compare an object’s length with that of other objects. He will use items such as cubes, feet, ribbon or yarn, or his own hands to measure and compare the lengths of objects. Note that the terms “length,” “width,” and “height” measure formal “length,” that is, how long an object is. It is customary to refer to things as longer than they are wide, but it is not necessary. Your child will become comfortable expressing width and heights as lengths.

Standard measurement tools, such as tape measures, yardsticks, meter sticks, or rulers will be introduced in Dimensions Math® 2A. The focus of this chapter is on using equal-sized units to find and compare lengths.

This chapter also lays a foundation for comparing, by comparing lengths. In the next chapter, students will compare quantities.

What can we do at home?

• Ask your child to compare the length of objects at home. For example, your child might notice that she is short, but the dog is shorter. She might also notice that she is taller than the dog.
• When playing, ask your child to arrange stuffed animals by height or toy cars by length. He can measure the length of a toy using linking cubes, or same-sized blocks.
• Ask your child to measure how far he can throw a paper airplane, frisbee, or ball by taking and counting steps, or using his foot as a unit of measurement.
• Compare the lengths of distances using your foot and your child’s foot. They should see that more child-sized feet than adult feet are needed to measure the same object or distance.
• Continue to practice addition and subtraction within 20 using any of the activities from prior Letters Home.