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Lisa has a homework assignment to measure something. She chooses to measure her dog, Penny. See all the ways she measures Penny and the charts she creates about caring for Penny.

**Ages:** 5 to 8 years**ATOS Reading Level:**  
3.2**Lexile:** 560L**ISBN:** 9780805065725**Copyright:** 1997

# Measuring Penny

**How does Penny, the dog, measure up?**

**Topics:** measurement, length, volume, weight, time

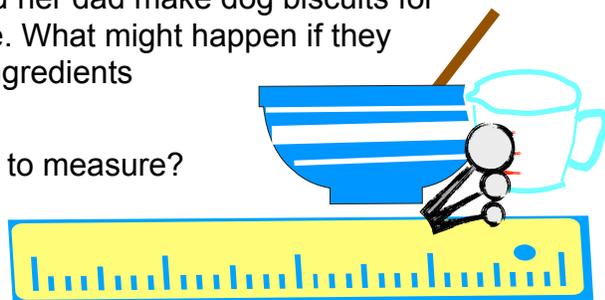
**Math Connections:** Use *Measuring Penny* to reinforce the concept of measurement. The book discusses a lot of different ways of measuring (length, volume, weight, etc.) and different measuring units (both standard and non-standard).

As you read the book with your child, discuss the units of measure that Lisa uses. For example, when she measures all the dogs' noses, she uses inches. Is this the best unit of measurement to use? Why or why not? Would it make sense to use feet, yards, or miles? Why or why not? In what measuring situations would you use feet? yards? miles? Why do you think so?

Practice using standard measuring tools like rulers, yardsticks, or tape measures by measuring something in your home or classroom. With your child, measure the length of their favorite toy or the length of their foot. Ensure that they put the zero mark of the ruler at the beginning of the object they want to measure and then accurately read the end mark. Remember, not everything will measure to the exact inch! You may have to explain fractions of an inch (or decide to call it 16 inches and a little bit). Children may surprise you with their ability to measure to the half inch.

**Extension Questions:**

1. What have you measured? What measuring tool did you use?
2. Do two objects have to be the same size to weigh the same? Do two objects that weigh the same have to be the same size?
3. When Lisa is measuring water for Penny to drink, what measuring tool does she use? What unit of measurement does she use? Why doesn't she use inches?
4. In the story, Lisa and her dad make dog biscuits for Penny using a recipe. What might happen if they didn't measure the ingredients carefully?
5. What would you like to measure?  
What measuring tool will you use?  
Let's do it!



<b>Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts</b>	bigger, centimeters, cents, cups, degrees, dollars, Fahrenheit, feet, gallons, half, heavier, hours, inches, length, lighter, longest, measure, meters, million, minutes, money, nonstandard units, pint, pounds, quart, seconds, shortest, smaller, tablespoon, teaspoons, temperature, unit, volume, weigh, width, yards
<b>Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts</b>	grams, kilograms, liters, meter stick, millimeters, ton, yardstick
<b>Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension</b>	biscuits, cotton swab, gnaw, schedule  Dog Breeds: Bassett Hound, Boston Terrier, Cocker Spaniel, Dachshund, Fox Terrier, Greyhound, Mixed Breed, Pug, Shetland Sheepdog

**Spanish Title:** Not available

**Related Books:** *How Big is a Foot?* by Rolf Myller; *Just a Little Bit* by Ann Tompert; *Just a Second* by Steve Jenkins

**Find this book at your local library:** <https://www.worldcat.org/title/measuring-penny/oclc/1003818366?referer=br&ht=edition>

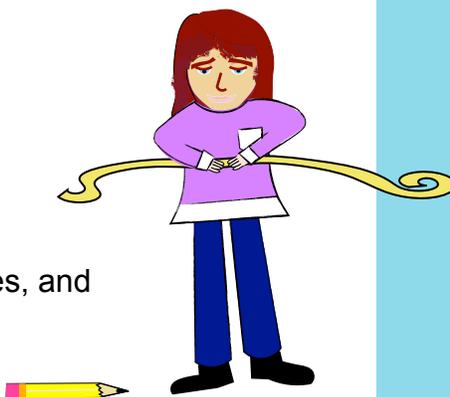
**Early Math Project Resources:**

[Measure Me](#) (English)

Spanish Version coming soon!

**Online Resources:**

[Measurement Unit Activities](#) from Frogs, Fairies, and Lesson Plans



Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Kindergarten	<b>Measurement and Data</b> <a href="#">K.MD.1</a> , <a href="#">K.MD.2</a> Describe and compare measurable attributes.
Grade 1	<b>Measurement and Data</b> <a href="#">1.MD.1</a> <a href="#">1.MD.2</a> Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
Grade 2	<b>Measurement and Data</b> <a href="#">2.MD.10</a> Represent and interpret data.
Grade 3	<b>Measurement and Data</b> <a href="#">3.MD.3</a> Represent and interpret data.