

# Learning Activity for Meter Stick

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**Objective:** The students will learn to measure with a meter stick.

**Materials:** a meter stick for each pair of students

### Meter Stick

Meter stick, meter stick!  
What are the lines on a meter stick?  
You'll be doing just fine  
When you know the lines  
And you learn to read a meter stick.

1,000 little lines from start to end  
These are millimeters, my friend  
All divided into groups of ten  
Every 10 millimeters is 1 centimeter  
100 centimeters to the end.

Meter stick, meter stick!  
What are the lines on a meter stick?  
You'll be doing just fine  
When you know the lines  
And you learn to read a meter stick.

**10 groups of 10 from start to end**  
**These are decimeters, my friend**  
**Centimeters in groups of ten**

**Every 10 centimeters is 1 decimeter**  
**10 decimeters to the end.**

So, 10 millimeters is 1 centimeter  
20 millimeters is 2 centimeters  
30 millimeters is 3 centimeters

It goes on like that till you reach the end.

40 millimeters is 4 centimeters  
50 millimeters is 5 centimeters  
60 millimeters is 6 centimeters

It goes on like that till you reach the end.

Meter stick, meter stick!  
What are the lines on a meter stick?  
You'll be doing just fine  
When you know the lines  
And you learn to read a meter stick.  
Stick!

### Procedure:

- 1) Teacher will talk about the meter stick.
- 2) Play the song allowing the students to point to the millimeter, centimeter, and meter during the song.
- 3) Practice as a class counting by 10s to 100, then making the connection to each of the above units.
- 4) Discuss with the students times when they have bundled in 10s. (place value – 10 ones is 10, 10 tens is 100, 10 hundreds is 1000)
- 5) Convert from one unit to another ...10mm is 1cm, 10cm is 100mm, 100 cm is 1 meter and 1000mm. Students will write this information down in their journal to use for reference.
- 6) Teacher models a few conversions on the meter stick – EX: 20cm equals 2dm, but it also equals 200mm.
- 7) With a partner, students explore 5 different conversions on their meter stick

**Evaluation:** Teacher observation during the song and while students are working their conversions to illustrate an understanding of the meter stick and its different units of measurement. Extension: The students will measure the width of the door, the height of their desk and their partner and convert those measurements to smaller or larger metric units.