

Transcript – Promoting the Skills of Using Mathematics

KEY:

N: Narrator

N: As they use measuring tools, children become familiar with units and the type of quantities relevant to each unit: metres for length, litres for volume, and so on. While getting to know the relevant units seems very straightforward, underpinning the measurement of quantities lie some very important ideas about how Science uses Mathematics to describe the world.

As they learn how to use the right tools for measuring quantities of each sort, children are introduced to the idea of accuracy. What do they have to do with the tool to be sure of an accurate measurement?

Measuring tools also introduce the idea of a scale, and that the scale used to measure can be subdivided to obtain more fine-grained results. As children handle and use measuring equipment, they are seeing first-hand what the tool measures and how the measurement is obtained. As they record the outcomes of their measurements, children collect data sets which they will later use for various forms of analysis.

By handling equipment, tools, and materials, children have real quantities at their disposal that will help with grasping ideas, such as making a reasonable estimate.