Title: Keep Your Distance! (Lexile® measure: 260L)
Author: Gail Herman
ISBN: 9781575651071
Description: Jen learns about closeness and the measurement of distance in inches, feet, yards, and miles when she has to share a room with her little sister Lucy.

Quantile Skill and Concept(s)

Estimate, measure, and compare length using appropriate tools and units (Quantile® measure: 240Q)

Book-Directed Discussion

After reading the book with your child, discuss the units of measurement mentioned in the book in terms of how they progress from smallest to largest. An inch is the smallest unit of measurement, progressing to foot, yard, and then mile. Show your child that the largest unit of measurement (miles) can be broken down into smaller units (page 32).

Foundations

Using a yardstick, measure distances between objects around the house that are about a yard apart. Sit with a yardstick between you and your child, so that you are one yard apart. Have your child mark the end of the yard with an object and then put the end of the yardstick down at the mark to create two yards of distance between you. Talk about the difference in distance between one yard and two. If space permits, mark the second yard and reset the yardstick so you are sitting three yards apart. Notice that you will have to talk louder because you are farther away. Also see activities at the back of the book.

Challenges and Connections

Use a ruler to demonstrate the number of inches in a foot. Then use a yardstick to demonstrate the number of feet in a yard (3 feet), as well as the number of inches in a yard (36 inches). Have your child measure and cut a string that is 12 inches long and another that is 36 inches long. Discuss how three twelve-inch strings are the same as the thirty-six-inch string (which is also 1 yard).