

Diagnostic TASK

FOCUS

Direct Measure

- Key Understanding 4

Make a Measuring Jug

Years 4–7

Purpose

To find out if the student understands that the calibrated scale on a measuring jug shows the units of capacity.

Materials

Bucket of water

Range of lids, caps, spoons, toy cups and a medicine glass

Permanent fine-tipped pen

Ruler

Container that is wider at the top than the base, e.g. a round, transparent take-away food container or plastic cup

Old towel to mop up afterwards.

Producing work samples

This task could be used as an individual interview, small group or whole class.

Individual interview

Ask the student to make the clear plastic cup or container into a measuring jug to use for small quantities of liquid (e.g. paint in the art lesson).

Provide a range of materials for the student to select from.

Record what the student does and says.

Small group or whole class

Observe all students and take note of whether they choose to use a unit to fill the container and mark the scale on the side accordingly, or whether they use another method. Choose three or four students to talk to in depth, asking them to explain what they are doing and why.