

Diagnostic TASK

FOCUS

Understanding Units

- Key Understanding 1

Direct Measure

- Key Understanding 1, 2

Pour to Decide

K–Year 4

Purpose

To reveal if the student:

- responds to and/or uses capacity language
- estimates which of two containers holds more drink
- can compare two containers to find out which one holds more by pouring water from one to the other.

Materials

Two quite differently shaped clear plastic drinking glasses

Cloth for spillage

Bucket of water (rice or sand can be used)

Teacher Recording Sheet

Procedure

Individual interview

Ask, *Which of these two glasses will hold the most drink? How do you know?* Record exactly what the student says.

If the student fills both containers and makes a judgment just by looking, prompt for direct comparison strategies. Ask, *Is there something else you could do to work out which one holds more?*

If the student does not realise that they can use the water to compare the capacities, fill the larger glass and say, *Pour the water into the other glass to see which one holds the most.* Record what the student says and does.

Small group

This task could be conducted as a small group activity. Provide each child with their own set of equipment and observe and record their actions and conversation. Use the suggested questions from above.

Refer to Direct Measure, Key Understanding 1, Did You Know? on page 107 to help interpret why some students do not know to stop pouring when the water begins to overflow.

Pour to Decide: Teacher Recording Sheet

Name _____ Year _____ Date _____

1. Which cup will hold the most drink? How do you know?

2. If the child fills both containers and makes a judgment by just looking, prompt for direct comparison strategies with: **Is there something else you could do to work out which one holds more?**

Further prompt with: **Will filling one container with water, help you to work out which one holds more? Show me.**

Other questions: