



## Learning About Size

Children are exposed to ideas about size every day. They think a lot about themselves and the fact that they are small. They learn that some small things are for children, and some larger things are for adults. For example, children may sit at the small table in small chairs and drink from small cups. They may learn that they can fit in some places where adults cannot. Children also learn about size when they play.

When children say something about size, talk with them more about it. This is one of the best things you can do to help your child learn about size.

When children first learn about size, they think things are either big or little. So they think all elephants are big, even though baby elephants are littler than grown-up elephants. They may think all bugs are little, even though the beetle they are looking at is very large for a bug. With time, children learn to understand size in more advanced ways. They learn that size is relative. This means that when a child is talking about the size of an apple, she should compare it to something else. An apple is little compared to a beach ball, but big compared to an ant. And some apples are bigger or smaller than other apples.

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#### Books

*Little Cloud* by Eric Carle, 32 pp.,  
Ages 3-6  
ISBN: 0399230343  
The Putnam Publishing Group,  
March 1996

*The Enormous Carrot* by Vladimir  
Vagin, 32 pp., ages 5-6  
ISBN: 0590454919  
Scholastic, Inc., March 1998

*Big Wolf and Little Wolf* by Sharon  
Phillips Denslow, 32 pp., ages 3-6  
ISBN: 0688161758  
Greenwillow Books, April 2000

#### Toys

- Building blocks
- Doll houses

#### Movies

- *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*
- *Alice in Wonderland*

## Links

1. The Discovery Channel is full of information and activities. Put “size” into one of many search engines and discover more. <http://www.discovery.com/>
2. Jig Zone is puzzles online. You can make your photos into puzzles or subscribe to do their puzzles online. <http://www.jigzone.com/>
3. Dinosaurs and the Expanding Earth is a Web site about dinosaurs that gives information about their sizes. <http://www.dinox.freemove.co.uk/english/index.htm>

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