



Wacky Water Race

The Big Idea:

Kids get moving and learn about volume in this family backyard race!

You Will Need:

- ★ Outdoor space to set up two 25 foot racetracks
- ★ A set of measuring cups
- ★ Two plastic pitchers to place at the starting lines
- ★ Two more pitchers, bowls, or buckets to place at the finish line
- ★ Water!

The Math Behind the Scenes:

Kids learn about measurement and volume, two subjects that are much easier to understand when they're experienced hands-on.

How it Works:

1. Set up two side-by-side raceways outside, about 25 feet long.
2. Use the measuring cups to fill two pitchers with the same amount of water. Before you start, talk about measurement. Ask:
 - ★ How much does each pitcher hold?
 - ★ How many cups will it take to fill the pitcher?
 - ★ How many half cups?
 - ★ How many quarter cups?
3. Place the full pitchers at the two starting lines.
4. Place an empty pitcher or bowl at each finish line.
5. Kids race to see who can transfer **all** of their water first! They can't go too fast, or the water will spill!
6. When someone finishes, you can measure how much water made it to the finish line – what fraction made it all the way to the end?

BONUS: Have kids try the race a few times – each time with a different size measuring cup. Hypothesize how much longer it will take to complete the race with a full cup versus a half cup vs a quarter cup. Also guess which race will result in the most water in the finish line pitcher – e.g. will a larger or smaller cup spill more?