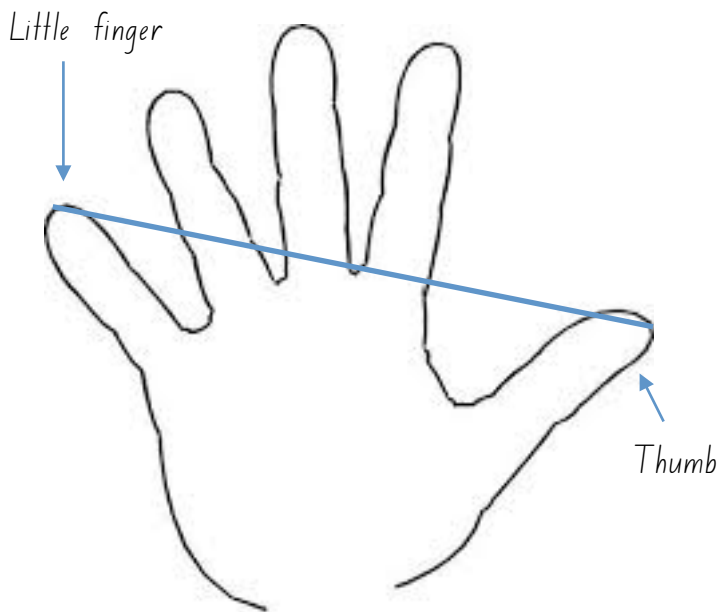


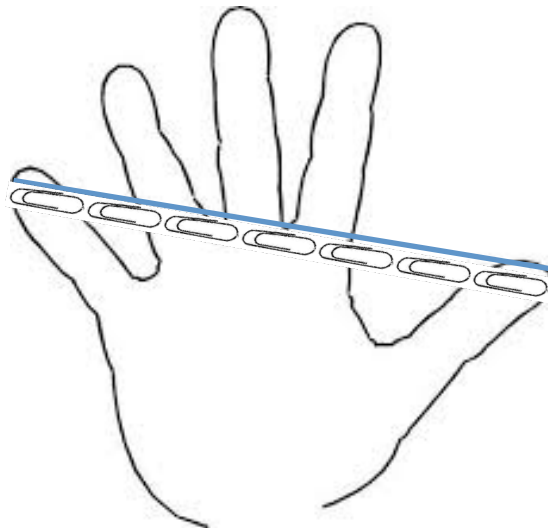
# Hand Spans

Children in Infant grades may use hand spans for measuring length.



Hand span can be defined as the distance between the tip of the little finger and tip of the thumb when the hand is outstretched.

Children can trace around their outstretched hand on paper and draw a straight line from the tip of the little finger to the tip of the thumb. Informal units such as paperclips, 'MAB ones', counters or something similar can be used to measure and compare the size of hand spans.



# Hand Spans

Hand spans can be used for measuring the length of objects in the classroom. For example, children could be asked:

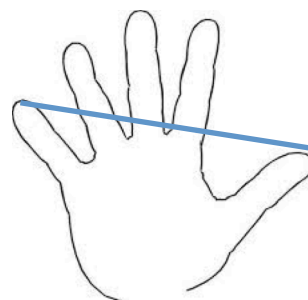
“How many hand spans wide is your desk?”

“How many hand spans wide is the door?”

“How many hand spans wide is the window?”

“How many hand spans wide is the whiteboard?”

“How many hand spans high is the cupboard?”



A collection of objects / lengths being measured can then be ordered. The children may discover perhaps that they put the objects / lengths in the same order as another child (or the teacher) however the number of hand spans is different for each. For example, this chart shows the teacher's hand span measurements compared to a child's.

	Teacher's hand spans	Child's hand spans
How wide is the desk?	6	9
How wide is the window?	10	15
How tall is the cupboard?	12	18

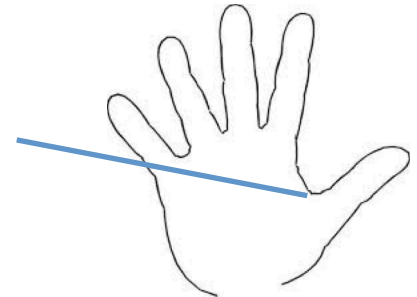
You can discuss / decide how to deal with measurements that are not exactly a full hand span. Perhaps by saying “3 hand spans and a little bit more . . . . 3 and a half hand spans . . . . 3 hand spans and 4 paperclips . . . .”

Name: ..... Date:.....

# Hand Spans

Trace around your hand ( stretching out your fingers as wide as you can ).

Draw a straight line from the tip of your thumb to the tip of your little finger.



Measure this distance with paperclips or counters or blocks . . . .

Use your hand span to measure the length of some objects you find in the classroom or at home.

.....

This is my hand span.

I can fit . . . . . along my hand span.

	Number of hand spans
How wide is the desk?	
How wide is the window?	
How tall is the cupboard?	