Caterpillar Measure
Measurement activities such as Caterpillar Measure are a fun way to learn about measurement without using rulers or measuring tapes.

What your child will do
Use the caterpillars provided to measure how long you are.

What you need
• Small caterpillars and large caterpillars
• Other measurement items (paper clips, pencils, paper, feathers, straws, plastic spoons)
• Paper
• Pencil
What you do
1. Decide if you want to measure with the large or small caterpillars first.
2. Ask your child to guess how many caterpillars long she thinks she is.
3. Write her guess down.
4. Have your child lie down and measure her with the caterpillars.
5. Compare the number she guessed with her actual length.
6. Try again with the different sized caterpillars.
7. Remember to make an estimate before you measure.
8. Practice measuring with the other items provided.
9. To extend the learning, read the book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, and measure the little caterpillar and big caterpillar using a standard measurement tool.

Questions to ask
How many caterpillars long do you think you are? Do you think it will take more of the small caterpillars to measure or less? What was the difference between your guess or estimate and the actual measurement?
Why do all your measuring tools (the caterpillars) have to be exactly the same size?

For parents
The concept of measurement can be taught at an early age using nonstandard measurement tools. Before introducing inches, centimeters, feet and meters, these nonstandard tools can teach the basic concept of measurement that will form the foundation for understanding measurement using the more standard tools such as: rulers, measuring tapes, yard sticks and meter sticks.
Caterpillar Pattern