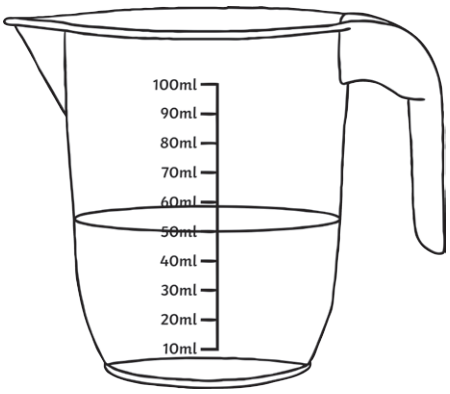
Capacity and Volume at Home

The best way to get familiar with volume and capacity is to get practical and possibly wet! You will need to stay very close to a sink to make sure the preciseness of your pouring is not too vital, or better still you could do all of these activities in the bath – even while you are in it!

Find a measuring jug or cylinder or anything else in your house which could be used to measure volume. Familiarise yourself with the scale – the chances are it will look something like this:



Fill the jug up with different amounts of water and practice reading the scale. You will need to place it on a level surface and allow the water to settle in order to do this.

Once you have become accustomed to the scale and making estimated readings, find a range of different sized and shaped containers that have a smaller capacity than your jug.

Draw or name your container and then estimate the capacity. Next fill the container with water as close to the top as you can and tip it into your jug – what is the actual capacity? Record it in your table.

Container (Write/ Draw)	Estimated Capacity	Actual Capacity	Surprised Yes/ No/Why?
e.g Yoghurt pot 	250ml	125ml	

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For your next challenge find two containers – one smaller and one larger and stand them next to each other. You could use some of the containers you used in task 2 and bigger receptacles such as vases, pans (try a frying pan!) or washing up bowls. Try not to make the difference between the two containers too large (e.g. a thimble and a bath tub) or else the challenge will take you all day to complete. Estimate how many of the smaller containers it will take to fill the larger container. If you can find someone to play against it will make the activity even more interesting. Decide who the winner of each round is then change one or both of the containers and play again. Hopefully your estimating skills will improve as you continue to play.

Smaller Container	Larger Container	Your Estimate	Opponent Estimate	Actual Answer (to nearest unit)	Winner?!

Capacity and Volume at Home

Can you find a relationship between volume and weight?

If you have some scales, get them out and find a container that you will be able to use to weigh water. Set your scales to take into account the container. Using your measuring jug add the following amounts of water to the container and check and record the weight. (This will work best if you use millilitres and grams.)

Volume of Water	250ml	500ml	750ml	1l
Recorded Weight				

Further research and investigation – take more notice of volumes as printed on the products we buy and use in the home. You will see them on everything we use that is liquid from washing up liquid to orange juice – you may be surprised by the amount of liquid in some containers!

Try the Design a Fruit Punch resource where you will need to use your ability to measure volume accurately.

Glossary

Volume – The amount of a substance in a container

Capacity – The maximum volume that can be held by a container