

Reviewing Physical Properties at Home

By Grade 5, your child will have learned about many physical properties of matter, including size, mass, shape, color, texture, flexibility, physical state, magnetism, relative density, volume, temperature, solubility, and conductivity. Your child should be able to define and give examples of each of these terms and should also be able to explain how to observe and measure each property. Given the appropriate tools — for example, a balance to measure mass, a ruler to measure length, a graduated cylinder to measure volume, and a thermometer to measure temperature — a Grade 5 student should be able to measure each property.

Take your child on a tour of a specific location, such as a park or a playground. You may also explore a room of your home. As you explore, ask your child to identify each object seen and describe that object, using as many physical properties as possible. If possible, bring a magnet, a balance, and other tools so that specific measurements can be included as part of these descriptions. Monitor your child closely to make sure she or he explores safely and does not touch anything that might cause injury. If a property cannot be measured, ask your child to predict the value of that measurement. Try to confirm each prediction later.

Encourage your child to create flashcards of each object and property measured. The flash cards can be used as study aids.