At-Home Activities
Math

Primary Bucket Balance

What Weighs More Than a Baseball?:
Choose a common object from around the house that can fit into one of the buckets on the scale (baseball, apple, coffee mug, etc.). Then, have your child find 5–7 objects that can each fit into the other bucket (toy car, pencil sharpener, juice box, etc.). Start by asking them to guess if each object weighs more than, less than, or the same as the baseball. Have them mark their predictions on a sheet of paper, and then place the objects, one at a time, into the bucket opposite the baseball. Record the findings and compare them to the original guesses.

Who’s the Biggest?:
Ask your child to find 7–10 objects around the house, each capable of fitting into one of the buckets. Have them hold each object and then line them up based on their guesses of lightest to heaviest. Then, ask them to find the actual heaviest and lightest objects in the group by using the balance. Let them try to figure out a process by themselves before stepping in to help. If needed, guide them to start comparing 2 objects at a time and work their way through comparisons until they have all 7–10 in a row.

Liquid Measuring:
The bucket balance is also useful for measuring liquids. Take 2 cups of different shapes (for example: short and wide, tall and narrow). Guess which one can hold more liquid, or if you think they might be equal. Then, fill each cup nearly to the top, and then slowly pour one cup at a time into each of the buckets. Place the empty cups next to the buckets to remember which one filled each side. Watch the balance and determine which side contains the most liquid. Was your guess correct? Try comparing other cups of irregular sizes to see if you can guess which can hold the most liquid.