

### Three Activities to measure Conservation Tasks

#### **1. Conservation of length:**

- Begin with two sticks or identical pencils, which are exactly the same length. Lay the pencils parallel to each other on the table and ask the child, "Which stick is longer?"

*Record the child's response.*

- Move one stick about a half inch to the left or right of the other. Ask the child again, "Which stick is longer?"

*Record the child's response.*

#### **2. Conservation of volume:**

- Find three transparent containers (glasses), two of which are identical. Fill the identical containers with water or another liquid to exactly the same point. Ask the child "Which container has more water?"

*Record the response. (If the child does not agree that the containers contain the same amount of water, adjust by adding or pouring water out until the child feels that the two containers contain equal amounts of water. Then pour the water from one of the identical containers into one, which is a different shape – preferably shorter and wider.*

Ask the child again? "Which container has more water?" Record the response.

#### **3. Conservation of Mass:**

This time you need a lump of a soft substance such as clay, play dough or cookie dough.

Shape the clay into two balls, asking the child to correct you until the two balls are the same.

Then flatten one ball.

Then ask the child, "Which has more clay?" Record the response.