

DIY CALLIBRATED CONTAINERS FOR CAPACITY

DIY callibrated containers is where:

- you bring into school a whole range of normal containers from home. They need to be clear and if they are different shapes and sizes (eg. from 250ml to 2L) all the better
- tell the kids that we/they are going to save the school some money by making their own callibrated containers
- show them what a true measurement container looks like and point out that the lines on the container/beaker are called callibrations. Have the kids tell you that these callibrations are important because you can measure the amount of liquid you need accurately
- ideally you should have 4 or 5 'proper' callibrated containers available, plus a bucket of water and some thin, permanent black (or dark coloured) markers
- organise the kids into groups of 2 or 3 and challenge them to mark their containers with callibrations according to the specific callibration you give them
- for example, group 1 have 1 litre container from home. Tell them you want them to create a callibrated container with callibrations of 100ml; group 2 had a 500ml container. Ask them to create a container with callibrations for every 50ml; group 3 may have a 2Litre cordial container. Set them the challenge of marking calibrations every 200ml or 250ml.
- don't say anything else. Only tell if you have to. This is a great activity for kids learning from their mistakes. Some groups are sure to use their rulers and the marker and nothing else and simply put a callibration every 5cm of whatever - it will look good but they will soon discover (as you show them) that this doesn't mean that their container will measure accurately.