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Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale

Education Committee

**8. 10 Using superlatives: ‘biggest’ and ‘tallest’**

**Why is this important?  
The superlative is the form of the adjective or adverb that expresses ‘most’.  
The superlative indicates that something has some feature to a ‘greater’ or  
‘lesser’ degree than anything it is being compared with in a given context  
(e.g. if shown trains of three different lengths – one will be the longest  
and one will be the shortest).**

**The grammatical marker ‘est’ is used most commonly.**

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What to do  
• Gather together groups of objects (e.g. toys which vary in size). You will need at  
least three of each object – one small, one medium and one large, e.g.  
★ Small, medium and large cups  
★ Small, medium and large pencils  
★ Small, medium and large dolls  
• Put out a set of three items (e.g. the three cups).  
• Point to each corresponding cup in turn, saying:  
★ ‘This cup is small, this cup is big and this cup is the…’  
• Can the child fill in the gap and say ‘biggest’ when you pause?  
• Now starting with the biggest cup say:  
★ ‘This cup is big, this cup is smaller and this cup is the …’  
• Continue with the other sets of items  
– the pencils can be ‘short’/‘long’, the dolls can be ‘short’/‘tall’, etc.**

**The YouTube clip below is a helpful starter for using comparatives and superlatives**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rylE-TTdsII**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rylE-TTdsII)