

Dudley Children's Occupational Therapy Service
The Sunflower Centre
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Using a Ruler, Protractor and Compass

As children progress through school they will need to learn to use a variety of tools to assist their learning and recording their work.

Ruler and Protractor

- Encourage a good sitting position with their feet fully supported for stability. The table should be around elbow height
- Encourage the child to hold the ruler or protractor in the middle rather than the end to help keep it still
- Some children may find a ruler with handle, easy grip ruler or a triangular ruler easier to hold and stabilise
- If the ruler or protractor is slipping, use an anti-slip ruler or try placing a piece of non-slip material underneath e.g. Dycem
- Start simple i.e. drawing shorter lines, then longer lines, then shapes

Compass

- Encourage a good sitting position with their feet fully supported for stability. The table should be around elbow height
- Some children may find other tools that are available easier to use for drawing circles e.g. Angle and Circle Maker, Slide N' Measure Compass, Adjustable Circle Drawing Tool.