

STRATEGY 2: Measuring and Weighing

why does this matter?

Growth charts are composed of percentile curves that show the distribution of selected body measurements in children. Pediatric growth charts are used by health care providers and parents to assess the growth of infants, children, and adolescents in the United States.

It is important to remember that growth charts cannot be used as a solitary diagnostic instrument. Rather, the clinician should use the charts in forming an overall clinical impression for the child being measured.

What is the purpose of measuring weight-for-length?

Length is measured lying down. Height is measured standing up. Typically, length (lying down) is measured in children 0-2 years old. The charts are normalized for this age group. The CDC recommends that health care providers use the WHO growth standards to monitor growth in infants and children ages 0-2 years old in the U.S.¹

The next section will provide you with a closer look as to WHY measuring weight-for-length and BMI is important and HOW to successfully do both at your practice.