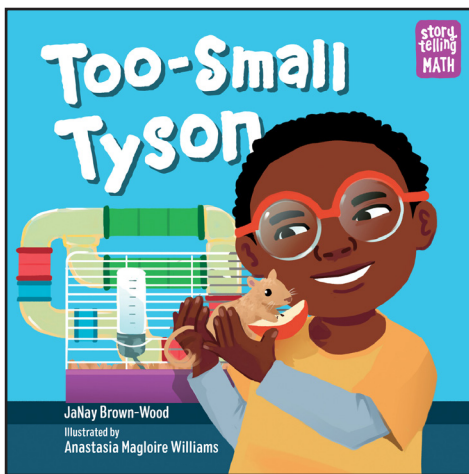


Storytelling Math celebrates children using math in their daily adventures as they play, build, and discover the world around them. Joyful stories and hands-on activities make it easy for kids and their grown-ups to explore everyday math together.

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# Too-Small Tyson

Math activities by Marlene Kliman, TERC



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## About the Book

Tyson is the youngest and smallest. It's not always easy keeping up with his older brothers. But when the family's beloved pet gerbil, Swish, goes missing, Tyson is determined to rescue his best friend! Can Tyson show his brothers that even the littlest can be a big thinker?

## About the Math

As Tyson looks for just the right combination of tubes to reach Swish under the bed, he uses proportional thinking. He comes to see that the smaller the tubes, the more tubes he'll need to span the distance.

As children explore how many same-size small items make up a larger one, they are building a foundation for measurement, fractions, and algebra. And, like Tyson, they may find that sometimes being the smallest can be an advantage!

*Folashade Cromwell Solomon, EdD*  
Associate Professor, Department of Education, Framingham State University,  
and Research Scientist, TERC

## About the Author

JaNay Brown-Wood is a professor of early childhood education and the author of several books for children, including *Shhh! The Baby's Asleep* and *Grandma's Tiny House*. JaNay lives in California with her family. [www.janaybrownwood.com](http://www.janaybrownwood.com)

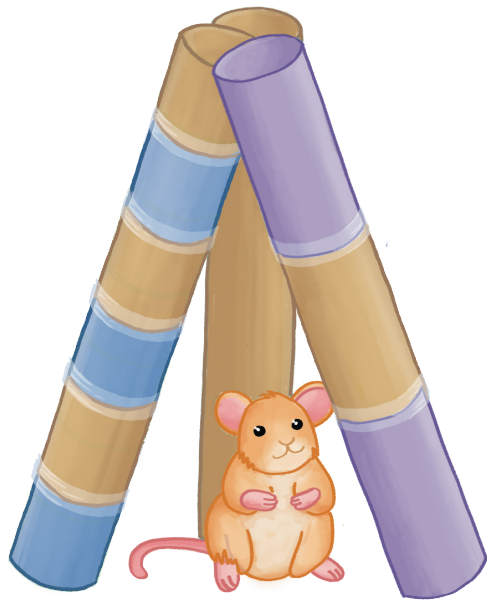
## About the Illustrator

Anastasia Magloire Williams is an illustrator, author, and graphic designer. She is the author and illustrator of *Naledi and the Star Road*. She lives with her husband in Florida. [www.anadraws.com](http://www.anadraws.com)



### Take a Giant Step

Line up at a starting line. Ask children: "If I take three baby steps and you take three giant steps, who will go farther? Why do you think so?" Try it! Then repeat with hops, jumps, leaps, or twirls.



### Build with "Gerbil Tubes"

Make tubes from construction paper, several in each length: 12", 4", and 2". (Or cut cardboard tubes to those lengths.) Invite children to build with the tubes. Encourage them to explore different combinations of tubes that span the same length, just as Tyson does!

### Height Tube

Save up cardboard tubes from rolls of gift wrap, paper towels, toilet paper, etc. Ask children to tape together tubes to make a "height tube" as tall as they are. When everyone is done, compare: "How are our height tubes the same? How are they different?"

