

➤ Notes for parents. Activity next page.

The purpose of this task is to help your child to:

- consider the relative probability of events occurring
- become aware that in our daily life we frequently encounter uncertainty
- recognise that there is a range of probability from **certainly won't** (impossible, it will never happen) to **certainly will** (sure to happen), with degrees of likelihood, or probability in between

As adults we know that probability can be expressed as a number between zero (can never happen) to 1 (will always happen). It can be expressed as a fraction, as a decimal, as a percent, or as "odds".

Your child is not required to 'quantify' the probability of something happening by giving it a number, but instead to think about the relative likelihood of events occurring by locating them on a line of probability.

You may like to print the following page or make a similar one of your own.

Talk about the task with your child. When they have located events on the line:

- Ask them to explain why they placed them where they did **relative to** the other events.
- Think about the **likelihood** of some situations from your own family occurring, and have them locate these on the line too.



Is it impossible, likely or certain?

You'll need: a piece of paper, a pencil and an eraser (a rubber). Draw a line about 25cm long on a piece of paper. At the left end of the line write **Certainly Won't**. At the right end of the line write **Certainly Will**.

Your line of 'likelihood' or 'probability' will look like this.



What you do:

1. Read one of the statements below.
2. Decide how likely it is that this will happen to you.
3. Decide where this fits on the line of probability.
4. Write the letter in the place you think it fits on that line.

Do the same for the other statements. You might need to change the place of some of the letters as you read more of the statements.

How likely is it that today you will:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| A. Go to the supermarket with an adult | G. Play rugby |
| B. Have a shower | H. Go to ballet |
| C. Sleep during the next 24 hours | I. Argue with someone |
| D. Read a book | J. Write a thank you letter |
| E. Go to school | K. Spend time with your cousin |
| F. Help someone | |

