# Using IT in... ourselves

How do we differ?

You can do a survey of children in the class and answer a range of questions on how we differ. For example, you might ask if girls are taller, or if tall people have bigger hands or if those with long legs jump higher? Does height have anything to do with shoe size? How are our reaction times different? Is our lung capacity different? Does lung capacity have anything to do with our chest size? And so on - but see the worked example in the database section.

With older pupils, this activity offers an opportunity for testing ideas, measuring and analysing data. Younger pupils should focus on just a few questions - as in the previous two activities. You can put the data into a **database program**

IT: Handling information

How high can you leap?

As with the previous activity, you can do a survey of how high people jump but this time use a **spreadsheet** program to record the results. The spreadsheet gives you a ready-made recording table and can produce pie charts and bar charts: which graph best shows the results of the class? Do people who can leap higher have anything in common?
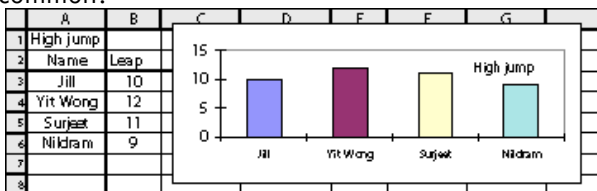
IT: Handling information

Who has the biggest hands?

Some hands are bigger than others - you might pick up as much sand as you can and then weigh the sand. What feature of your hand helps you to pick up the most sand? Is it your hand span? Your thumb size? Try this with the class - weigh the sand they can hold and measure their hands. You can record your results in a **database program** - and then draw scattergraphs of say, sand against hand span, to see if there is a pattern. What do you find? Who has the biggest hands? If someone said they had big hands, what would you measure to find out? This is an interesting project for a bright group and it involves lots of measurement and data handling.

Who has the biggest hand?				
Name	Sand	Thumb	Middle	Span
Jill				
Yit Wong				
Surjeet				
Nildram				

IT: Handling information

How do we grow?

Our bodies do not grow uniformly - for example, the trunk grows much faster than the head. You might take a child of average height from each age group and line them up. You take measurements of head, trunk, legs, arms and overall height. You use a **database program** to record the results. Using a **spreadsheet** you could sort the list into order and plot a set of graphs - one for head, one for arms and so on. You might ask: which part of the body grows faster? Which part grows slower?

IT: Handling information

Write a diary telling how a baby grows inside its mother?

Children can draft and develop their written work using a **word processor**. They might write about the growth of a baby, and use a diary-style. They might work as a team, print it out, discuss it further and refine it.

IT: Communicating