



Learning to tell the time isn't easy.
Some children find it especially difficult and yet it is a vital life skill.

The government recognises how important it is that all children learn to tell the time and they have given it an increased focus in the new maths curriculum.

This means that by the time children reach Y3, they should be able to read the time to the nearest minute on both analogue and digital clocks and be able to estimate and calculate time differences.

One reason that teaching time is difficult is because it cannot just be taught in one lesson, practised a little and then remembered.

Children need to be reading time and talking about time when they are outside of school also.



Give your child a head start – and the best present: teach them to read the time!

Check out the activities on Mathletics to practise reading the time. Work your way through the activities together and then practise on real clocks around the house and outside.



Start with young children in nursery by talking about time and including it in stories, rhymes and games.

Y1 & Y2 children should know the names of days of the week, the months and be able to say how many days are in a month, or months in a year.



Does your child know:

How many seconds are in 1 minute?

How many minutes are in 1 hour?

How many hours around a clock face?

How many times the hands



Try making a clock face from a paper plate.

You could cut a paper plate up to show how we divide an hour into halves and quarters when discussing time.



Work with your child:

- . Think of the clock face as a number line
- . To count in 5s (use your paper plate clock and move a peg around as you count)
 - . Count back in 5s from 60
- . Talk about time. Read/record the time you get up
 - . Record how long it takes to do things
 - . Ask questions such as:
 - . How many times can you jump in 1 minute? (Then check.)
 - . Read times in TV magazines and timetables
- . Read the time at the beginning & end of a walk to the shops
 - . Tell them what time you will be back from work
 - . Give them a job to do at a certain time
- . Read clocks together in the house/out and about – both digital and analogue

If your child comes to school feeling more confident about telling the time, you will have given them a wonderful gift that will last them a lifetime.

In order for your child to practise reading time, they will need a clock in their bedroom and a watch on their wrist.

If you are buying any presents for your child, think about buying a watch.

From September, we shall be selling children's watches at school at £6 each. Ask at the office or Mrs Hackett for details.

