

## How to teach your child to tell the time

Learning to tell the time on an analogue clock (a clock with hands) is hard and yet, it's an important part of the maths curriculum in Year 2.

Below is the method that we use and which we find successful.

Please feel free to use this method to help your child with this tricky task. At school, as well as using real clocks, we use a teaching clock where the teacher sets a time and the children have to read it.

- ✓ First, check that your child can count in multiples of 5 from 0 to 60.
- ✓ Next, spend some time focusing on the minute hand only, and looking at past times only, by showing your child times which are multiples of 5.
  - For example, '10 minutes past', '25 minutes past', '5 minutes past'.
- ✓ Then, still looking at past times only, move onto reading times to the nearest minute.
  - For example, '4 minutes past', '18 minutes past', '21 minutes past'.
- ✓ Next, add in the hour.
  - For example, '10 minutes past 3', '20 minutes past 5'.
- ✓ Only at this point, teach that 'quarter past' and 'half past' are special names that we use for '15 past' and '30 past'.
- ✓ Once your child is confident at reading 'past' times, start with the 'to' times, again, teaching the special name for '15 minutes to'.
- ✓ Finally, when your child has started to read both 'past' and 'to' times, ask them to think of this question first - -
  - Is it a 'past' time or a 'to' time?
- ✓ before continuing to work out the time.



Cate Matthews and Jess Meeuwissen-True