**Mathematics - Time**

Time is a very hard concept for children to learn as it is so abstract, there are lots of elements involved as well as other mathematical knowledge that also needs to be in place.

For example, in order to be able to tell the time, children need to be confident with counting in 5s and they need to understand halves and quarters.

Children need to know how different units of time relate eg one minute = 60 seconds, 24 hours = one day, 12 months = one year etc.

They also need to develop an awareness of what time feels like eg how long is a minute, an hour and what sort of activities can you complete in those time frames?

A key element of learning about time is obviously being able to tell the time on an analogue and digital clock / watch and understanding am / pm and the 24 hour clock. As children get older, all of these become really important for planning and organising their day to day lives independently.

Before starting to work on telling the time, make sure the other elements discussed above are in place:

* **Practise counting up in 5s if needed.** Try the visualisation approach in this folder.
* **Work on halves and quarters** of shapes, especially circles. Use string etc to create a large circle on the ground and divide it into quarters. Your child can stand at the top of the circle (’12 o’clock’) and then walk half way round, a quarter of the way round. Place 12, 3, 6, 9 number cards where they would be on a clock face so your child starts to make the connection between half past and 6 etc.
* **Calendar work** – can your child recall the days of the week in order and the months of the year? Provide a visual timeline of the days of the week and add activities for each day. Talk about what day it is today, tomorrow, yesterday. Keep a diary or exercise log. Create a visual timeline of the months of the year, marking the seasons and adding in important dates eg Christmas, Easter, family birthdays. A range of resources can be found at <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search?term=months+of+the+year> Discuss 7 days = 1 week, 12 months = 1 year etc
* **Feel for time** – use a stopwatch / timer on a phone or tablet. How many times can your child write their name, throw and catch a ball, run the length of the garden, say the alphabet etc in one minute? Reflect on how long they were playing on a computer game, watching the television, eating dinner, going for walk?

**Telling the time**

Third Space Learning provide a really good approach to learning to tell the time, breaking the process down into separate parts eg working just with the hour hand on a clock and then just with the minute hand before putting the two together. Videos are used to demonstrate what you need to do.

<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/concrete-resources-cpa-explained/#19--telling-the-time-->

Another good resource to enable you to generate clock faces showing a range of time intervals can be found at <https://www.senteacher.org/printables/Mathematics/18/TellingTheTimeClocks.html>