



Parents,

Your child's class has briefly been introduced to reading an analogue clock face at school. We have talked a little about reading time TO THE HOUR. I have told the children that the "BIG HAND" is the "O'CLOCK" hand, and when it points to the 12, we say "O'CLOCK". The little hand is the one that tells us what hour or "time" it is.

The expectation that children read a clock and comprehend the passage of time will not and should not be fully in place until grades two and three. However, since this is a tough concept to master, you can help your child prepare for later grades by discussing clocks IN A GENTLE AND NON-PRESSURE WAY while conducting your daily routine. Below are some ideas you can use to help your child become more familiar with the time.

Using The Clock

You can help your child learn to tell time by making a clock for use at home. Make a clock of cardboard to be used for playing games and keeping records. A paper plate can be used for a clock face. Hands can be cut from stiff cardboard and fastened with a paper brad.

Set the clock hands at times that interest your child and let him/her watch a real clock to see when the hands point to the correct time. Try to use only the hour hand at first and then the half hour.

Some times to watch for include:

- Time for a favorite television program
- Time to remove food from the oven
- Mealtime
- Time to leave for school
- Bedtime
- Time to feed a pet

Watch the hands of a clock to see how far the hour hand and the minute hand move in an hour.

Time activities to see how long it takes to:

- Put toys away
- Get dressed
- Dry dishes
- Bake cookies
- Watch a television program

Make a book with pictures of clocks and watches cut from newspapers and magazines. Read the time shown on each.