



Introduction

Welcome to *Specific Skills: Telling Time*. This collection of practice pages, hands-on activities, and easy-to-play learning games has been designed to help students, especially struggling learners, develop an understanding of the concept of time. Learning how to tell time can be a difficult skill for children to acquire. With this challenge in mind, the materials in this reproducible book are geared to help primary-aged students experience success in learning how to read analog clocks.

To introduce and reinforce basic concepts of time, use the practice pages and games in a variety of ways, including whole-group lessons, as independent student work, in a learning center, and as at-home enrichment activities. The lessons in *Specific Skills: Telling Time* address the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) Standards by strengthening measurement, problem-solving, and communication skills.



The interactive games and delightful practice pages will surely capture the interest of students while strengthening an essential math skill—telling time.

How to Use the Book

The activities in this book have been planned to address the needs of students just beginning to learn how to tell time as well as those students who need opportunities for reviewing this essential skill. To get started, you may have your students complete Pretest/Posttest A or B. Then, select the appropriate activities for your students by turning to the corresponding section of the book—reading time on the hour, on the half hour, or on the quarter hour and five-minute intervals.

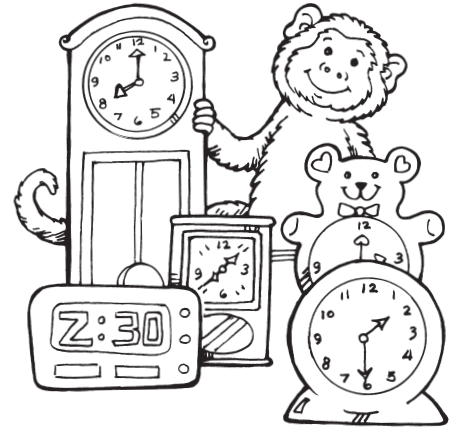
Patterns for paper clocks are provided for hands-on practice in telling time. On pages 8 and 9, you will find two large clock faces along with charming illustrations to help children remember important features about the hour and minute hands. Snail's Hour Clock can be used when introducing and discussing how slowly the hour hand moves around the clock face. Monkey's Minute Clock features the minute hand and minute tick marks. To make sturdy demonstration clocks, copy the patterns (enlarge them for large group discussions) onto card stock, cut out the hands, and then attach them to the clock faces with brass fasteners. If you prefer to make paper-plate clocks, duplicate copies of the pages onto colorful paper, cut out the clock faces along the heavy black lines, discard the illustrations that surround them, and then mount the clock faces on stiff paper plates. Use poster board or card stock for the clock hands to make them more durable. For additional suggestions on using these clock manipulatives, turn to the directions for activities and games on pages 10, 29, and 44–45.

In addition to class use, consider selecting some of the practice pages and games for at-home activities. Perhaps there are specific times that a student is struggling to learn. Have the child take home an assembled paper-plate clock and some telling-time cards that you have made with the patterns provided. Show digital clock faces on the fronts of the cards and analog clock faces on the backs. These materials can easily be included with a copy of the Letter to Parent on page 7. Learning about telling time concepts can be fun, and more easily mastered, with activities and games!

Learning How to Tell Time

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In math class, your child will be learning how to tell time on a clock that has hands. This important skill is sometimes difficult for children to learn because time cannot be measured like the length of a rope or the height of a person. Please consider locating an analog clock for your child to observe. If possible, spend a few minutes with your child doing the activities and reading one of the book selections included below:



Activity: Clockwise Clues

Directions: Locate an analog clock or wristwatch that you and your child can use for telling the time throughout the day. Talk about the location of the hour hand on a clock dial. Be sure to choose times when the hour hand points directly at a number, other times when the hour hand points a little bit past a number, and times when the hour hand almost points to the next number. Whenever possible, talk a lot about the hour hand to help your child understand that it is important to look at that hand first before thinking about the minute hand. Turn the stem that is used to set the time so your child can watch what happens to the hour and minute hands simultaneously.

Activity: Crazy Clock Fun

Directions: Find an analog clock that has an alarm and then set it to ring on the hour. Place the clock in an area where your child will hear the buzzer. When the alarm sounds, ask your child to tell you the time (such as 7 o'clock). If your child can already tell time on the hour, select a time on the half hour or a quarter-hour segment (such as 7:15 or 7:45). Repeat the game as interest allows.

Books to Share:

What Time Is It, Mr. Crocodile? by Judy Sierra (Gulliver Books, 2004). Here is a delightful story about a crocodile and his adventure with five lively, pesky monkeys. The surprise ending will surely please young readers. Encourage your child to find the clock in each scene and read the time on the hour.



About Time: A First Look at Time and Clocks by Bruce Koscielniak (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004).

How did people in the past measure the time? If your child is interested in learning more about clocks, read together parts of this book. Different clocks are discussed: water clock, candle clock, hourglass sand clock, mechanical bell clock, and so on.

Thank you for your assistance,