

Tick tock

What your child will learn:

Recognizing numbers • number order

STEP 1

- Show your child this clock.



STEP 2

Ask your child to point to the numbers on the clock and say them in order. Ask how many numbers are on the clock.

STEP 3

Ask your child to point to the shortest hand on the clock. Tell your child that this is the “hour hand” and that when the hour hand moves from one number to the next, 1 hour has passed. Tell your child when the hour hand is on 7 it is 7 o’clock. When the hour



1 hour has passed since it was 7 o’clock.

When the hour hand is on 8 it is 8 o’clock.

hand is on 8 it is 8 o’clock and 1 hour has passed since it was 7 o’clock.

■ STEP 4

Tell your child about things that take about an hour and talk about how long an hour feels. You might say, “Getting to grandma’s house takes about 1 hour. Is that a long time?”

■ STEP 5

Tell your child what you do at different hours in the day. You might say, “We get to preschool at about 8 o’clock each morning. Point to the 8 on the clock.” Do this with other times during the day such as “I pick you up from school at about 3 o’clock. Point to the 3.”



▲ Make it Harder

When your child understands hours on the clock, begin to talk about how many minutes are in an hour. Have your child count to 60 and tell him that each hour has 60 minutes. Use a timer to show your child how long a minute is and then how long 5 minutes is. This is not easy so your child might not understand right away. But keep talking about it.

+ Math is Everywhere

Make a game out of spotting clocks—in the store, at school, or at the train station. Ask your child, “What number is the big hand pointing to?”