

Time Marches On



This game will help your children see the difference between "a few seconds" and "a few minutes," and can help them be on time in school.

What you'll need

- Paper
- Pencil
- A timer of some kind (alarm clock, kitchen timer)
- Clock or watch with all 12 numerals and a second hand

What to do

1. Ask your children to watch the second hand tick five seconds. Together, count off the five seconds.
2. Count off 30 seconds. How many times can your child clap hands during this time? Take turn timing and watching each other.
3. Make guesses about how long ordinary things take:

How long is a traffic light red or green?

How long does it take to eat dinner?

How long does it take to get ready for school?

Test your guesses with the watch or timer. How close did you each come to the right answer?

4. Read a book aloud with your child for 3 minutes. Time yourselves. Then move up to 5 minutes, then to 10, and so on.



Learning that some things take longer than others will help your child understand how long it takes to do a task and how to plan for it. This activity will also help them increase their attention span.