

In five minutes

What children should learn

Mathematics – to develop a sense of how long ‘five minutes’ is and experience waiting for one’s turn.

What you need

A plastic-fronted wall clock with a clear face, a decorative plate-stand, coloured peel-off labels.

Activity

Place the clock in the plate-stand and keep this in a known place, accessible for the children. Whenever one child wishes to use something being used by someone else, encourage the child to ask for a ‘turn’, and for the second child to say ‘yes, in five minutes’. The first child should then bring the clock to you. Point out the ‘big hand’, and the next number it will move to, after five minutes. Place a coloured label by this number. The child may now take the clock and stand it up nearby, ‘keeping an eye’ on the time.

Extension

Use a three-minute egg-timer ‘twice’, to enable the children to appreciate ‘waiting for a turn’ for six minutes. Show the ‘waiting child’ how to turn the egg-timer after three minutes.

Talk about

What activity could the ‘waiting child’ could do in five or six minutes? For example, he could look at books, play with something else, sweep up the sand, etc.

