Telling the Time

After children have learned to tell the time to the hour (o’clock) and half-hour, they learn to tell the time to the quarter hour.

Introducing the concept of a quarter hour is worthwhile doing when also covering a unit on fractions.

A clock circle can be divided into four equal pieces. Demonstrate the movement of the minute hand around the clock passing through the first quarter, half way around, past the third quarter and back to the starting position.

When passing the 3 say something like “That is a quarter past the hour”. When passing the 6 say something like “That is two quarters or half way past the hour”. When passing the 9 say something like “That’s three quarters past the hour. There’s only one quarter left”.

On a quartered clock, demonstrate times that are fifteen minutes past the hour. Explain that we can label these as ‘A quarter past Four’ . . . . ‘A quarter past Six’ . . . . ‘A quarter past Eleven’ etc
Proceed to demonstrate times that are fifteen minutes before the next hour. Explain that we can label these as ‘A quarter to Five’ . . . . ‘A quarter to Eight’ . . . . ‘A quarter to Two’ etc.

Labels such as O’Clock Quarter past Half Past and Quarter to can be placed around a clock on the wall. During the day at certain times the children’s attention can be drawn to the clock when the minute hand is pointing at either the 3 or the 9 on the clock.

It is very worthwhile also using the terms “Fifteen minutes past” and “Fifteen minutes to” an hour as well as “Quarter past” and “Quarter to”. The children can start to learn to count by 5 minutes for every number on the clock face.
Telling the Time

Cut out the analog clocks, digital clocks and the written times. Glue the groups of three matching times on another piece of paper:

- 5:15  A quarter past Three
- 2:45  Fifteen minutes past Five
- 11:45 A quarter past One
- 1:15  A quarter to Three
- 3:15  Fifteen minutes to Twelve
Telling the Time

Cut out the analog clocks, digital clocks and the written times. Glue the groups of three matching times on another piece of paper:

- 2:15
- A quarter to Two
- A quarter past Two
- 10:15
- A quarter to Eleven
- 1:45
- 9:45
- Fifteen minutes past Ten
- Fifteen minutes to Ten
- 10:45
Telling the Time

Cut out the clock and the hands.

Use these to demonstrate times that are a ‘quarter past’ an hour and times that are a ‘quarter to’ an hour.