



An analog clock that motivates children who cannot yet tell the time to read the time from a clock

fun pun clock

The origin of the clock's slightly humorous name is the Japanese pronunciation when reading the minutes in the base 60 numeral system. In Japanese, you read 5 minutes as "go(five)-fun," 10 minutes as "ju(ten)-pun," 15 minutes as "jugo(fifteen)-fun," and 20 minutes as "niju(twenty)-pun." This clock is easy to explain to children, simple, made of beautiful materials, and it matches any interior design.

[Three distinctive features of the clock]

1) A design that puts a smile on children's faces

When children show an interest in clocks, it's important to have an adult to help them get to the next step. Not only at school but also at home, where children spend most of their time, adults should consciously link activities with time so that children can learn a sense of time management, by asking themselves "what I can do in a certain amount of time?"

When your child becomes interested in clocks, it's strongly recommended to read the time aloud together. Between you and your child, keep your voices low and listen to the "ticktack" sound of the second hand, count up to 60, check the time when you take a bath or go to bed every day, and say the time aloud, "Go-fun, Ju-pun," while pointing at it. It's hard to notice when you're in the middle of it, but such a priceless, gentle moment of parent-child communication is a precious thing that passes by in the blink of an eye.

2) An analog clock as a gateway to understanding concepts of time

As well as becoming independent, wouldn't it be helpful for Mom and Dad if the children could also learn the concept of time? Children's self-confidence increases when they make a series of small achievements such as "I got ready to go out more quickly than before!" When appropriate, praise their improvement with the concept of time and related actions. Children will gain confidence by making their own plans and will further develop this confidence with every successful experience they have. Besides, analog clocks are again being recognized at a time when digital clocks have become dominant because they help us to intuitively organize our time based on an action plan, like a pie chart.

3) A clock designed from a mother's standpoint and based on the Montessori method

Surprisingly, children's interest in numbers begins to develop when they are toddlers. They will often show an interest in clocks as part of their interest in numbers. However, toddlers will find it difficult to understand the time that the hour and minute hands point to using only the numbers from 1 to 12. Therefore, the mother needs to add the minutes to complement the time shown on commercially available clocks. The "fun pun clock" is cleverly designed to promote children's understanding of minutes, hours, and time from the standpoint of Montessori education.

"Children have more intellectual curiosity than adults realize. Their eagerness to repeatedly ask questions such as 'What's this?' and 'Why?' is a sign of their self-education ability that enables them to learn about the world. If you can be a little more creative and organize their environment appropriately, they will immerse themselves in the environment, exercise their intellect, and act independently. An adult's role is not to instill knowledge in their children but rather to create an environment in which they can learn on their own and think by themselves."

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Japan Montessori Research Institute / Misa Sakurai, Senior Research Fellow

[The significance of design]

1) The adoption of a step movement

We can intuitively understand how long a second is by the sound. Also, we have adopted the movement of using the ticking sound as a stepping stone to understanding the base 60 numeral system. Nowadays, more and more adults read the time on clocks that make no ticking sound. Examples include analog clocks with a sweeping second hand, digital clocks or cell phones. As such, children have fewer chances to experience the sound of 1 second. The experience of hearing the tick-tock sound of a clock in the middle of the night when you can't sleep enhances your ability to do or prepare something in time.

2) Color effects

Since this clock was designed for children, it needed to be simple and beautiful without losing the texture of the raw material. For this reason, we used a thick resin texture and simple monotone clock face. A "glossy red" color was strategically incorporated into the design for the points that are important in understanding a clock. Having no other decorative colors helps children to concentrate on "understanding time" and "recognizing the time" intuitively. The design also encourages adults to talk to their children.

Example:

*First, let's count from 1 to 60 with your child while looking at the second hand, which is the only thing they can see moving.

"Shall we count the moving thin red hand to 60?"

*Next, encourage them to associate the minute hand with the second and hour hands. For example, "The red tip points to the minutes. The tip is on 7 so it's 35 minutes now, isn't it? When we count to 60, 7 is 35 minutes. OK?"

3) Incorporating children's point of view into the spacing between each number

For young children who have just started learning numbers, it looks odd that the "12" is at the top of the clock. Children who understand the concept of "0" will tend to put "0" at the top instead of "12". Children who don't understand the concept tend to put "1" instead of "12". So the number "12" is designed to be slightly emphasized. The double-digit numbers (10, 11, 12) are carefully positioned so that children can easily identify them without confusing them with the adjacent numbers.

fun pun clock



YD14-08 L

φ354×d48mm
970g
plywood, glass
step second



YD14-08 M

φ305×d48mm
725g
plywood, glass
step second



YD14-08 S

φ254×d48mm
580g
plywood, glass
step second

Designer Profile



Yoko Dobashi

Yoko Dobashi spent five years working at Idee co. Ltd. (1997-2002). She was involved in the development of standard furniture and in the launch of the "SPUTNIK" brand, which was introduced in London, Milan, and New York. Since 2012 she has hosted the "Design life with kids interior workshop." She is active independently as a freelance designer and interior writer, working in collaboration with various companies and media. In 2017 she provided design to TAKATA Lemnos and the "fun pun clock" won the GOOD DESIGN AWARD. Her article "Interior for a 156-cm-tall" is serialized at Precious.jp. <http://yokodobashi.com/>



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