

Time/schedules

Introducing children to statistics and data analysis can begin by having them collect information, analyze it and describe or present their findings in an organized way.

What You Need ★ Stopwatch, watch or clock ★ Newspaper ★ Blank paper ★ Graph paper ★ Ruler ★ Small round object to trace to make a pie chart ★ Pencil and markers or crayons

What To Do ★ Show your child how to keep track of the time he spends on two activities, such as watching television and doing homework. Help him to make a chart with two columns, one labeled “Television” and one labeled “Homework.” Down the left side of the chart, write the days of the week. Tell him that you want him to write the number of minutes he spends doing each activity on each day. At the end of the week, sit down with him and talk about what the table shows. ★ Help your child to make a chart to use as he watches television. Give him a stopwatch (or an easy-to-read clock or watch) and tell him to record how much time of each television show is used for commercials and how much time is used for the actual show. Have him keep the record for one night of viewing. On the graph paper, help him to make a bar graph that shows the different amounts of time devoted to the show and to commercials. Or, show him how to make a pie chart. ★ Together with your child, keep track of how he spends time in one 24-hour period: time spent sleeping, eating, playing, reading and going to school. Help him to measure a strip of paper 24 inches long, with each inch representing one hour. Using a different color for each activity, have him color the number of hours he spends in each activity. You and other family members can make similar charts; then your child can compare the charts and see how everyone in the family spends time.

Time/ Traveling

Traveling—whether by car, bus, train or plane—provides many opportunities for children to use mental math and estimation to solve time and distance problems.

What You Need ★ Information about how far you’re traveling and how long it will take ★ Bus, train or plane schedule

What To Do ★ On a routine trip around town, point out the time on a watch and say, for example, “It’s 3:15, and it takes us 30 minutes to get to your dentist’s office. Are we going to get there before your 4:15 appointment?” ★ Show your child a bus, train or plane schedule and explain what it is and how to read it. Point out, for example, that a schedule shows when the bus leaves one place and when it arrives at another. Have her figure out how long it takes the bus to get to several places listed on the schedule. ★ On a longer trip, occasionally ask your child to estimate how far you’ve traveled and how much longer it will take to get where you’re going. Use road signs or schedules and timetables to help her check the answers.