

### Time: The clock

Over the coming days your child will be learning about time: the clock in one-hour and half-hour intervals, as well as the months of the year and the four seasons.

**Note:** There is a difference between Ireland and other countries in allocating months to the different seasons. Historically in Ireland, Halloween is regarded as being the celebration of the gathering in of the harvest and the end of growth. The end of October was also seen as the end of autumn and the beginning of winter. This meant that, in Ireland, winter began in November with the knock-on effect of spring beginning on St Brigid's Day, 1 February. In the USA, winter begins in December, putting their spring back to the beginning of March. Many countries have followed the American way over the years. Most Irish people still consider 1 February as the beginning of spring. For the following activities, we take 1 February as the start of spring.

### Poem: The Clock Poem

I'm in the clock crew and I'm okay!  
I tick all night and I tick all day.

I've got two hands, I'm having a ball,  
Because I've got no arms at all!

My big hand can move sixty minutes in one hour,  
I'm the one with the strength and power.

My small hand isn't quite as fast.  
If they were in a race, it would come last!

It takes so long just to get around  
(12 hours you know),  
It's careful, small, and slow.

### Telling the time!

As discussed in **Sheet 15**, use an old clock where the hands can be manipulated by your child. Show your child a time, e.g. half past eight. Ask: *What time is it? Why is it half past 8 o'clock?*

We hope to get an answer something like: *Because when the long hand points to 6 and the short hand points halfway between the 8 and the 9, it is half past 8.*

If you don't get the correct answer, explain the time to your child. Do the same with a number of other hour and half-hour times.

### Days of the week

#### Song: Let's All Sing

(Sung to the tune of 'Frère Jacques')

Here we have  
The days of the week  
Let's all sing.  
Let's all sing.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
Sunday.  
My favourite day!

### Naming and ordering months of year

Write out the names of the months of the year on pieces of paper or cut them from an old calendar.

**Variation:** Get your child to pierce a small hole at the front and end of each month's name, as with the days done earlier in **Sheet 15**. Get him/her to join the different months in order using a piece of string.

### Months and seasons

Write the names of the four seasons – spring, summer, autumn and winter – on separate pieces of paper, as done with the months of the year. Ask your child to place the four seasons on the table or floor with one underneath the other, starting with spring. Now, using the 12 months made for the previous activity, ask him/her to place the correct months with the correct season.

**Spring:** February, March and April

**Summer:** May, June and July

**Autumn:** August, September and October

**Winter:** November, December and January

You can ask such questions as:

- *What is the first month of spring?*
- *How many months are in each season?*
- *What season follows summer?*
- *In what season is St Patrick's Day?*