

PARENT NOTES: MEASURING TIME!

SUNDIAL



Today, we started a whole new superpower theme - the superpower of time! We started by learning about how today we mostly tell time on either an analogue or digital clock. Then we made a more traditional clock that uses the sun called a sundial. Your child then used modern clocks to calibrate their sundial to help them understand how we can mark the passing of time using the apparent movement of the sun across the sky through the day.

ASK YOUR CHILD

What did you make today?

(A sundial)

Why does the shadow move across the sundial?

(The sun appears to move across the sky throughout the day and as it's light can't pass through cardboard it creates a shadow. This cast shadow moves across the sundial as the angle of the light from the sun bouncing on it changes through the day).

Do you think that your sundial is good at telling the time, and how could you improve it?

(Sundials are better at measuring larger amounts of time like hours than smaller ones like seconds, a bigger sundial would be better at measuring smaller amounts of time as the small movements of the shadow would be easier to differentiate)

