

Understanding Turns: A Guide for Year 1 Parents and Carers

Key points

- In Year 1, children learn about position and direction, which means understanding how things move and where they are.
- A whole turn means spinning all the way around to face the same way you started.
- A half turn is a turn that leaves you facing the opposite direction.
- A quarter turn is a smaller turn, like turning from facing a wall to facing a side wall.
- Clockwise means turning in the same direction as the hands on a clock, while anticlockwise is the opposite way.
- Some children may confuse turning on the spot with moving to a new place, so we focus on staying in one position.

Things to try at home

- Play 'Robot', where you give your child simple instructions like 'do a half turn' or 'do a quarter turn' to find a hidden toy.
- Use a real clock or a toy one to show how the hands move clockwise around the face.
- While standing in the kitchen or garden, practice turning together to see who can do a perfect whole turn.
- Use a favourite toy or figure to demonstrate turns on a table, turning them to face different directions.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher, who can tell you how your child is getting on and what specific words they use in class.
- The GOV.UK website for information on the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 (the first stage of primary school for children aged 5 to 7).