



18: The Magic of Punctuality

*A PK-6 Lesson on Being on Time, Keeping Commitments,
and Showing Respect for Others*



Introduction for the Facilitator

This lesson focuses on the professional skill of **punctuality**, which means being on time and ready for what's next. It may seem like a simple habit, but for PK-6 students, punctuality builds responsibility, confidence, and the ability to follow through on commitments.

When students practice being punctual, they begin to understand that time is not just about themselves—it's about being ready for others, respecting routines, and showing up consistently. It's a quiet leadership skill that says, "You can count on me."

Over time, punctuality becomes a core part of a student's **personal competitive advantage**, helping them build trust and reliability. It also supports the **lifestyle** they want to create, where they feel prepared for opportunities, reduce stress, and are seen as a dependable team member.

This lesson includes:

- **A Social Story** about the value of being on time
- **8 Group Discussion Questions** with follow-ups
- **8 Journal Prompts** (draw or write)
- **10 creative classroom Activities**
- **A printable Worksheet** to help students reflect on how punctuality shapes their day

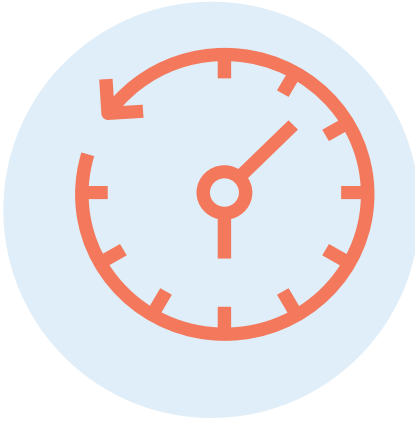
Let's help students discover that showing up on time is more than a routine; it's a promise we keep to ourselves and others.



Social Story: **DeShawn Beats the Bell**

DeShawn was often late. Not by much—just five minutes here or ten minutes there. But it added up. He missed the morning meeting. He forgot the reading log. He always felt like he was catching up.

One morning, his teacher Ms. Kwan said, “I know you care about your learning. Being on time helps your brain—and your heart—start the day with confidence. What about making a plan to be on time?”



DeShawn nodded. That week, he made his plan. He set his shoes by the door. He packed his bag at night. He asked his uncle to leave five minutes earlier.

The next morning, he walked into class just as the bell rang. Suddenly, everything about his day felt easier.

DeShawn didn't miss the schedule. He didn't feel rushed. And when group work started, he was already in the zone.

By Friday, DeShawn felt something new: proud. Not just because he was on time, but because he was becoming someone others could count on.

Punctuality became part of his **personal competitive advantage**. And it helped him build the kind of **lifestyle** he wanted: organized, respected, and ready for anything.



Group Discussion Questions

1. **What does punctuality mean to you?**
Follow-up: Why is it helpful to be on time?
2. **What happens when we are late to something important?**
Follow-up: How does it affect others? How does it affect us?
3. **What are some routines that help you be on time?**
Follow-up: What's one you want to get better at?
4. **How does being on time show respect for others?**
Follow-up: How do you feel when someone is late and keeps you waiting?
5. **Why do some people struggle with punctuality?**
Follow-up: What can help make it easier for them?
6. **What does it feel like to arrive prepared and ready?**
Follow-up: How does that feeling help the rest of your day?
7. **How does punctuality help grow your personal competitive advantage?**
Follow-up: What strengths are you building when you're on time?
8. **What kind of lifestyle do you want to live?**
Follow-up: How can punctuality support that vision?



Journal Prompts

(Students can write or draw their answers based on age and ability.)

1. **Draw or write about a time you were on time and it helped your day go better.**
2. **What helps you get ready and be on time in the morning?**
3. **Describe a time when being late made something harder. What did you learn?**
4. **What's one part of your routine you could improve to help you be more punctual?**
5. **If punctuality were your superpower, what would your superhero name be? What could you do?**
6. **What does being dependable mean to you? How do you build that with punctuality?**
7. **What can you do today to help tomorrow start on time?**
8. **How does being on time help build your personal competitive advantage?**



Activities

1. **Morning Routine Race**
Students list or draw their morning routine and then brainstorm how to make it smoother and faster.
2. **Beat the Clock Challenge**
Set small challenges (e.g., clean up your space in 2 minutes) to practice using time well.
3. **Punctuality Pledge**
Students write or sign a class pledge to be on time and ready during transitions or projects.
4. **Timely Transitions Tracker**
Use a class chart to track smooth, on-time transitions between activities.
5. **What Time Is It? Role Play**
Practice what being "on time," "a little late," and "very late" looks and feels like.
6. **Visual Schedules**
Have students create colorful timelines or checklists for getting ready in the morning or for a big event.
7. **Class Clock Leaders**
Assign rotating "Time Keepers" to help the class stay aware of time during group work or clean-up.
8. **"Why It Matters" Collage**
Students cut or draw examples of how being on time helps at school, at home, and in the world.
9. **Ready in 5 Game**
Challenge students to quietly get ready for the next subject in under 5 minutes. Team cheer if they succeed.
10. **Personal Planning Boards**
Provide dry-erase or paper boards for students to write their time-based goals each morning and check them off.



My Punctuality Plan

Name: _____

Helpful Words:

- **Punctuality** = being on time and ready for what's next
- **Lifestyle Goal** = the kind of life I want to live
- **Personal Competitive Advantage** = my special strengths and habits that help me grow

Directions:

Write or draw your answers. Being on time builds your confidence and your future!

Use the back of this sheet if you need more space.

1. A time I was proud of being on time was:

2. One part of my routine that helps me be punctual is:

3. Something that makes it harder to be on time is:

4. A small change I can make to be more punctual is:

5. My Punctuality Superpower helps me do these things:

6. Punctuality helps me grow my personal competitive advantage by:

7. This is how being on time helps me live the lifestyle I want: