

Ways to help learn times tables

Multiplication forms the building block for other mathematical concepts. Good times-tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving; for example, if a child knows that $6 \times 3 = 18$ they will be able to work out that $6 \times 30 = 180$ or $1800 \div 60 = 30$ almost instantly.

The table below shows our school expectations for each year group. Children will be tested regularly on their times tables in school.

Expectations for each year group:	
Year One	Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. Recall and use doubles of all numbers to 10 and corresponding halves.
Year Two	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5, 10 and 3 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.
Year Three	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.
Year Four	Recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 .
Year Five	Revision of all times tables and division facts up to 12×12 .
Year Six	Revision of all times tables and division facts up to 12×12 .

Ways to help your child learn times tables

To support both you and your child at home we have put together a pack of activity sheets, flash cards and ideas, along with a list of recommended websites and apps, which hopefully will soon have your child firing out their times tables facts confidently and fluently.

Please look on our website to find the flashcards and activity sheets.

Other ideas to help

Counting/chanting

Counting is vital. Children need to practise counting in sequences before they can really understand times tables (2, 4, 6 . . .)

Grab every opportunity – running up and down the stairs, waiting to leave the house, in the car, before breakfast

Visualise the numbers

Help your child to visualise the numbers by using groups of lego bricks, counters, bundles of straws, smarties to reinforce their understanding that 3×2 means three lots or groups of two.

Play Games

Using coloured card, you can make simple games.

For instance, cut some card into 24 identical pieces, and write out all the questions for one times table on 12 of the cards. Then write the answers on the other 12 cards. Spread them out on a table and see if your child can match them all up correctly. Once they are confident, time them with a stop-watch. See if they can try to beat their own record each time they do it! Play Snap or Pelmanism (Memory). To make this trickier, play with combinations. (Flash cards of times tables are available on our website)

Use playing cards: Use a pack of playing cards (Jack = 11, Queen = 12, King = 12 or 13 as a challenge!) Cut the pack in half, quickly turn over the top card of each pile and multiply the two numbers together. If the answer is right, keep the pair. If not, put the cards back at the bottom of the pile. The winner is whoever has the most pairs at the end.

Use dominoes: Place dominoes face down on the table. Player one takes a domino. Multiply the two numbers together and say the answer. If they are correct they can keep the domino. If not, place it back face down on the table. The winner is whoever has the most dominoes at the end.

Pairs: Make a set of 0 - 12 number cards. Turn them all face down – take it in turns to randomly turn one over and multiply by your target table (e.g. $\times 3$). If the answer is correct, the player keeps the card. If not, it goes back face down. The winner is whoever has the most cards at the end.

Use the Tricks!

Luckily, math is full of shortcuts.

To memorize the 9's tables, use your fingers. Spread them all in front of you, palms down. For 9×1 , put your left little finger down. What do you have showing? 9. For 9×2 , put your second finger down (the left ring finger). What do you have showing? 1 finger to the left and 8 fingers to the right. The left represents the tens, the right the ones so, 18. Put your third finger down; 2 and 7 so 27. This works all the way up to 9×9 .

If your child can double a number, the $\times 4$'s will be easy. Just double the number and double it again!

Take 6×4 . 6 doubled is 12. 12 doubled is 24. So $6 \times 4 = 24$.

Double again and you have the 8 times table.

The same method can be used for 6 times table which is double the 3 times table, double again and you have the 12 times table.

To multiply anything by 11, just duplicate the number.

$3 \times 11 = 33$. Two 3's. $4 \times 11 = 44$. Two 4's.

The answer is in the question, just twice.

Make it fun!

Say a number Eg 30. Can your child list all of the possible combinations that multiply to give your chosen number? 5×6 ? 3×10 ? How many can they list in one minute?

Say a number, and then ask for the next multiple.

For example, start at 30 and ask for the next multiple of 6. Or start at 18 and ask for the next two multiples of 9. You could even start at 22 and ask for the next multiple of 4, even though 22 is not a multiple of 4. Be tricky, once they have it.

Try multiplication **Bingo**. Choose a times table (or several) you want to practise. Create a six-by-six grid (for younger children, make the grid two-by-three to make it easier). Fill the grid with multiples of your chosen target table. Call out questions from the target table and if the answer is on the grid, it can be crossed off. Cross out six answers – call out Bingo! Don't forget to check that the questions that have been asked and the answers crossed off tally.

Fizz or Fizz Buzz: (if you've got older siblings to join in – this works well)

Choose a times table, or two, to practise (eg 5 and 3).

Fizz: Count around in a group with each person taking it in turns to say the next number. Count again, but instead of saying the number, say fizz instead of the multiples of 5 (or 3, or 10 . . .)

Eg 1, 2, 3, 4, fizz, 6, 7, 8, 9 fizz.

Fizz Buzz: As above but this time also saying buzz for multiples of 3

Eg 1, 2, buzz, 4, fizz, buzz, 7, 8, buzz, fizz, 11, buzz, 13, 14, fizz buzz

Make **fortune tellers** using questions and answers instead of fortunes.

Recommended websites:

- <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>
A range of good games here – a favourite being 'Hit the Button.'
- <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy-multiplication.html> - nice grid activities and a quiz to test your knowledge.
- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/timestable/interactive>
lots of different games here to try too.
- <http://www.mathsisfun.com>
The Math Trainer – Multiplication is specially designed to help memorize tables. Use it as often as you can. There are lots of other activities on this website to help with learning tables.

Recommended Apps:

- Squeebles
- 10 Minutes a Day Times Tables (DK)

We hope these suggestions are helpful.

With times tables little and often is the best way forward. Several 5 minute sessions a day will work wonders.