

Simple ways to help your child become fluent with their times tables:

To support your child during the holidays, and beyond, we ask that they continue to practise their times tables in fun and varied ways. Please see the attached document, which shares many ways in which you can do this and web addresses that the children can access at no cost.

We look forward to hearing about the fun games they have tried when they return in September.

Times table tricks:

The first thing to remember is that multiplying works both ways, so it is sometimes easier to turn the problem round. If you don't know 6×3 , try 3×6 !

Don't forget the division facts! The children don't really know their tables until they know all the division facts too. For example, $3 \times 4 = 12$, so $12 \div 3 = 4$ and $12 \div 4 = 3$

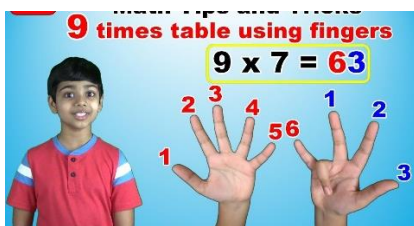
2x tables – just double the number

10x tables – answer always ends in a zero

5x tables – always end in a zero or five

9x tables – the digits of the numbers in the nine times tables always add up to 9 or a multiple of 9. Try it out!

Another clever trick is to use your fingers to work out the nine times tables as shown in the picture.



Doubling is a great way of using the tables you know to work out the tougher ones. E.g. double your 2's to get your 4's and then again to get your 8's. Double your 3's to get your 6's.

Use the easier tables to work out the harder ones:

For 6's do 5x and 1x and add them together!

For 7x do 5x and 2x and add them together!

For 8x do 10x and 2x off! For 9x do 10x and take 1x off!

Zero times anything is zero!

Activities for learning Times Tables:

Write them out!

There are lots of fun ways to learn your tables out there and we encourage you to use as many different ways as possible to keep it interesting. However, there is still a place for practising writing them out, so don't forget it when planning your varied mental maths work out – it works!

Chant it!

Counting out loud, backwards and forwards, has been researched and proven to be a powerful aid in learning times tables. You could do it in different voices or add dance moves – The Macarena works well!

Play Fizz Pop

Extend your counting by counting in ones but every time you get to a number in the three times table, say fizz. Extend by using pop for the 5's. Mix and match the tables your child is learning to make this different each time and keep them thinking. Will they be good enough to play fizz, pop, bang, wallop?

Sing it!

Our brains have an incredible ability to remember words when there is a melody behind them. There are lots of times tables songs out there which make use of this. If none of those seem to work, why not try making up your own!

Quiz it!

Write out quizzes, fire questions at them out loud, or use one of the websites listed in this document to find ways of testing your child. Identify the ones they struggle with and make sure to include these ones more often. Don't forget the division facts!

Draw a grid

Draw a grid with numbers along the top and left-hand edge. Ask your child to complete the grid by multiplying the row number by the column number and filling in the appropriate box. Mix up the numbers to make this more challenging.

X	3	6	9	7
8				
5				
2				

Make a poster

Times table posters are available from a huge number of shops these days and there is certainly value in the children constantly seeing their number facts. Why not ask your child to make their own version? They are more likely to look at it if they made it and they learn by making it in the first place.

Play Bingo!

Bingo is a simple game which needs very little equipment to play. Just get your child to choose from a variety of numbers and act as the bingo caller by asking questions. If they have the answer, they cross it out.

Play pairs

Make some question and answer cards for all of the times tables that your child is learning. Ask your child to match the question card with the answer card. Once they seem to know them, turn them over and play memory pairs with them.

Make flashcards

Help your child to make some flashcards with timetables and division questions on. Now test them – can they beat their record time?

Fantastic 4

Give your child a multiplication fact. Can they come up with the other three related facts to complete the fantastic 4? For example, $3 \times 4 = 12$, $4 \times 3 = 12$, $12 \div 4 = 3$, $12 \div 3 = 4$.

Gimme 5!

An extension of the game above, but now your child needs to come up with another two facts in the form of fractions. For the example above, these would be: one third of 12 is 4 and one quarter of 12 is 3.

Use Dice

Take it in turns to roll two dice. You score a point for correctly saying a number sentence about the 'product' of the top numbers. E.g. 'four times 2 equals 8.'

Extension – you score a point for correctly using the dice in one each of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. So, if you roll a 3 and a 6, you could say:

$$3 + 6 = 9$$

$$6 - 3 = 3$$

$$3 \times 6 = 18$$

$$6 \div 3 = 2$$

It is not always possible to make an answer for each calculation!

Play fingers

A game they can be played any time, any place, anywhere! The game is similar to 'Roll two dice' but can be done with an element of competition if required. It is designed to encourage rapid recall of multiplication tables in a fun way. You and your child put a hand behind your back. Secretly extend between 1 and 5 fingers. Say 'ready, steady, go!' and both of you must bring your hand out in front. Each of you must now call out the product of (multiply together) the number of fingers on each hand. For example, if you show 2 fingers and your child reveals all 5, you must both quickly call out 'TEN!' The winner writes down one letter of the word 'FINGERS' and the first person to write down all six letters is the winner.

If your child is not confident with their tables, do not make it a competition – simply give your child a letter for each time they get it right and see if they can get to spell FINGERS with a specific time limit.

Extension: you and your child put both hands behind your back. Secretly extend between 0 and 10 fingers.

Six of the best

One step up from 'Gimme 5', this is a great game for reinforcing the bonds between multiplication, division and fractions. Choose any set of 3 numbers from the list below:

2, 7, 14 4, 6, 24 12, 4, 48
3, 6, 18 3, 8, 24 12, 4, 3
3, 5, 15 2, 20, 40 4, 20, 80
4, 5, 20 2, 20, 10 15, 60, 4
6, 7, 42 3, 9, 27 9, 72, 8
3, 12, 36 50, 10, 5 63, 7, 9
2, 5, 10 7, 5, 35 13, 52, 4
3, 20, 60 40, 8, 5 10, 100, 1000

Your child must give you the six number facts relating to the three numbers together. For example, if you choose the first set the six facts are:

'Two times seven is fourteen'
'Seven times two is fourteen'
'One half of fourteen is seven'
'One seventh of fourteen is two'
'Fourteen divided by seven is two'
'Fourteen divided by two is seven'

Once you have exhausted this list, make up some trios of your own.

Speed cards

Take out the picture cards and jokers from a pack of cards. Take it in turns to turn over two cards at random and multiply the numbers. If you get it right, keep the cards. If not, put them back. How fast can you get through the pack?

Useful websites to support learning at home

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

<https://www.mathschase.com/start/>

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths/primary-multiplication-division/help-with-times-tables/>

<https://www.timestables.com/speed-test/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10>

<https://urbrainy.com/mtc>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/times-table-collection/z4vv6v4>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/games/> <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/maths/times-tables>