

Supporting your child with their times tables

Traditional Methods

Sometimes the old ways really are the best:

Reciting the tables:

Reciting your tables is one of the simplest ways of learning your tables, it's a simple and quick way of covering the table that is being practiced and can be done anywhere, on the way to school for example.

Writing out the tables:

Another simple and effective way of learning the tables. For some children writing the tables out over and over again helps them 'stick'. Writing out the sentences in rainbow colours can be really helpful.

Quick-fire tables:

Again a simple and effective method which can be done anywhere, on the way to school, in the back of the car or on the way to the park. Asking questions from the tables that are being focused on and covering them over and over again can be an effective way of learning the facts. This includes focusing on corresponding division facts. This method is particularly effective when the child is proficient in their tables facts and have a few 'gaps' which they need to secure.

Singing



Singing the times tables can be very effective for some children. There are lots of different songs available on the internet (although do please check that they're suitable first). Alternatively sing the tables to a tune which you are already familiar with.

Computer Games:

If your child enjoys playing computer games this can be a great way to get them to learn their tables. One of the best games available on line is Hit the button <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> This is a completely free resource. It is fantastic for learning multiplication facts and for corresponding division facts. Furthermore, as the children are playing against the clock, they can look to improve their score. Hit the button is a great resource for practising other number facts as well. As

with any online resource please always monitor to ensure that your child is safe online.

Your child's teacher may also set online games to support times tables knowledge through Abacus or Twinkl Go. Many of these games can be played repeatedly and the child can go back into them so that they continue to learn those times tables skills.

Games:

There are a wide range of tables games available commercially. However, there are many games that you can play at home which require minimal or even no physical resources.

Quick Fire Multiplication:

Remove the jokers and kings from a deck of cards. Place the deck of cards face down.

Decide which multiplication table is the focus. Turn over the top card and ask the



child to give the answer. For example, if the focus table is 6 and the 7 is turned over the child would have to find the answer to 7×6 . See how many answers they can find in one minute. Keep score and see if they can improve their score next time.

Multiplication Snap:

Remove the jokers and kings. Assign a value to the jack (11) and the Queen (12). Split the deck between two players. Each player turns over a card. The child calls out the answer to the multiplication question. If they are correct they keep the pair. If they are incorrect the adult keeps the cards. The person with the most cards wins. See if they can improve their score next time.

Connect Four:

Make a grid (8×6 works well). In each box write the answers to the tables you are working on. Roll two dice and add the scores together, then roll them again and add these scores together. You should now have two numbers. Multiply these

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together. If your answer is on the grid, cover it with a counter or colour it in. The first person to get four answers in a row, whether vertically, horizontally or diagonally, wins.

Fizz Buzz:

This game is excellent for practicing knowledge as your child becomes more secure in their tables knowledge.

Taking it in turns call out the numbers in order 1, 2, etc. However, when you come to a multiple of 3, replace the number with the word fizz, when you come to a multiple of 5 call out buzz and if the number is a multiple of both call out fizz buzz.

1, 2, fizz, 4, buzz, fizz, 7, 8, fizz, buzz, 11, fizz, 13, 14, fizz buzz, 16.

Movement:

For some children, and adults, movement really does aid memory.



Jump to it:

This works best outside. Using a piece of chalk write the answers to the tables that the child is working on, on the ground. Call out the sentence e.g. 3×4 and the child jumps onto the answer. This can be evolved to include the corresponding division facts.

Dance Routines:

If your child is creative they may enjoy creating their own dance routines for the times table they are working on.

Pattern Spotting:

Some children love finding tricks and patterns in the times tables and this really helps them to learn the facts. For example asking your child if they can spot a pattern in the 9 times table. Can they see that with each answer, as they work up the table, the tens digit increases by 1 but the ones digit decreases by 1?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 21 | 24 | 27 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 36 | 4 |
| 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 45 | 5 |
| 6 | 12 | 18 | 24 | 30 | 36 | 42 | 48 | 54 | 6 |
| 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | 35 | 42 | 49 | 56 | 63 | 7 |
| 8 | 16 | 24 | 32 | 40 | 48 | 56 | 64 | 72 | 8 |
| 9 | 18 | 27 | 36 | 45 | 54 | 63 | 72 | 81 | 9 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | |

Can they see any connections between the times tables? Does knowing the four times table help them find the answers in the eight times table.

Using a times table square to find patterns can be really helpful. There are copies of the times table squares in class which your child is welcome to take home.

Complete the grid:

Draw a simple grid with digits across the top and down one side from the tables they have been working on. How quickly can they fill in the grid with the answers?

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| X | 5 | 4 | 12 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

These are just some suggestions as to how you could help your child learn their tables. Whatever you do remember little and often is best and keep it fun!