

Maths at Home Times table Games and Strategies



These games and activities are designed to help you support your child with their learning of the times tables.

Specific year groups study different times tables throughout the year, however these activities work with them all!

I'm sure we all remember standing up, chanting tables at school (I know I do)! Learning by rote is one strategy, but there are also other activities we can do with children to help them learn their tables.

The aim of this booklet is to show you some strategies we use in school and that you could try at home to help children with their tables.

Times table square

Using a times table square is a good way to help visualise all the answers and see the different patterns that occur. In the example below, all the square number answers have been coloured in.

You could create a new times table square for each table and see what patterns are created!

You could look for patterns, such as how the digits change in the 9 times table.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
11	11	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	110	121	132
12	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144

Looking for patterns...

Being able to spot the patterns in numbers is an important skill and can also help with learning times tables. Children can investigate these multiplication rules:

- Odd number x odd number = odd number (E.g. $3 \times 5 = 15$)
- Even number x even number = even number (E.g. $4 \times 6 = 24$)
- Odd number x even number = even number (E.g. $3 \times 6 = 18$)

Flash Cards

Once children know the times table facts in order, they can use flash cards to practise the facts out of order. They could just use them to answer questions, or for an extra challenge, try it against the clock!

Flash cards could also be stuck around the house to help children learn the facts!



Websites

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=HitTheButton10>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?f=SpeedChallenge>

<http://www.what2learn.com/home/examgames/maths/subtraction/>

<http://www.sumdoq.com/>

(Need to subscribe but maths resources are free)

Rhyme Time!

Silly rhymes can help children learn tricky tables, e.g.

$8 \times 8 = 64$ He ate and ate and was sick on the floor, eight times eight is 64.

$3 \times 3 = 9$ Swing from tree to tree on a vine, three times three is nine.

$7 \times 7 = 49$ Seven times seven is like a rhyme, it all adds up to 49.

One less = nine!

This is a strategy for learning the 9 x tables. The key to it is that for any answer in the nine times table, both digits add up to 9. Try it and see!

1. Subtract 1 from the number you are multiplying by. E.g. 7×9 , one less than 7 is 6.
2. This number becomes the first number in the answer. $7 \times 9 = 6$ __
3. The two numbers in the answer add up to 9 so the second number must be 3. $7 \times 9 = 63$

BINGO!

This game will need 2 players!

Make a grid of six squares on a piece of paper and ask your child to write a number in each square from the target tables. Give them a question and if they have the answer, they mark them off. First one to mark off all their numbers is the winner!



Counting Stick!



A really useful method for learning all the times tables is with a counting stick.

Each of the answers is placed on the stick and a discussion is held about how to use this fact to find another answer in the times table. This then shows children that they can *work out* the answers even if they can't remember them.

This strategy is used in our school and can be viewed on Youtube at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8IO_wl2Iys&t=26s

Or,

Tricky Sixes

Six times tables can be tricky to learn. One helpful trick is that in the 6 times tables, when you multiply an even number by 6, they both end in the same digit.

$$2 \times 6 = 12$$

$$4 \times 6 = 24$$

$$6 \times 6 = 36$$

$$8 \times 6 = 48$$

Double, Double!

A quick trick for learning the fours is just to double, double. Double the number and then double it again.



E.g. 3×4 double 3 is 6, double 6 is 12 $3 \times 4 = 12$

Sing a song of Tables!



Singing tables can be a really good way for the children to learn. Most book shops and toy shops will have CD's of times table songs that the children can sing along to, or you could always make up your own to a known tune!

Speed Tables!

Time challenges can be a really good way of helping times tables be-came automatic. Some ideas we use in school are:

- Measuring the time it takes to write the tables, then trying to beat the time.
- Seeing how many times you can write that table in 1 minute.
- Race/challenges against other people.



9 x table on your fingers!

1. Hold your hands in front of you with your fingers spread out.
2. For 9×4 bend your 4th finger down (like the picture).
3. You have 3 fingers in front of the bent finger and 6 after the bent finger. Thus the answer must be 36!
4. The technique works for the 9 times table up to 10.



Superfingers!

This is a game for two players!

The game is basically a version of rock, paper, scissors but with numbers. Two players count to 3 and then make a number using their fingers.



Both players then have to multiply both numbers together and the quickest wins.

Multiplication Snap!



You will need a deck of cards for this game!



1. Flip over the cards as though you are playing snap.
2. The first to say the fact based on the cards turned over (a 2 and a 3 = say 6) gets the cards.
3. The person to get all of the cards wins.