

How about times tables?

Learn 1 get 1 free!

Multiplication is perfect for switchers! For example 7×2 gives the same result as 2×7 .

Knowing this means children reduce the number of times table facts they need to learn, by half!

Four facts

Children learn the relationship between multiplication and division.

They should learn that $6 \times 3 = 18$, $3 \times 6 = 18$, $18 \div 3 = 6$ and $18 \div 6 = 3$.

Doubles

It helps to learn the doubles. If children are able to double they don't just learn the two times tables. They can quickly remind themselves of other facts.

For 8×6 - double six ($2 \times 6 = 12$), double again ($4 \times 6 = 24$), double again ($8 \times 6 = 48$)

Singing, chanting:

These "old-fashioned" strategies still help. Say the multiples as you go up the stairs - eg:

3, 6, 9, 12.... Time how quickly they can do it. Can they run up the stairs? Can they say it backwards when they come back down? (Please walk forwards though we don't want to be responsible for any A&E trips! ☺)

Writing them: For the arty children make a tables poster for their bedroom wall.

Speed writing: How quickly can you write all the facts in the xtable of choice? Can you beat your time? Race your parents / older siblings!

Rhymes and patterns:

Create rhymes to help children remember facts.

$8 \times 8 = 64$ (I ate and I ate and was sick on the floor, 8×8 is 64)

$8 \times 7 = 56$ ($56 = 7 \times 8$) (the numbers in this times table fact are in order 5, 6, 7, 8!)

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

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 the child has to say fizz instead of the multiples of 5. For example 1, 2, 3, 4 fizz, 6, 7, 8, 9 fizz. Repeat this again saying buzz for multiples of 3. A challenge is to say fizz for the multiples of 3 and buzz for the multiples of 5 while they count up. This game can be adapted for other multiples. It helps children rehearse the pattern of multiples. A great game for car journeys.

Bingo:

Children write down 6 to 8 numbers from 1 to 36. Roll a dice twice and multiply the numbers. Players cross out the answer if it is one of their numbers. This game can be played with dice, playing cards, digit cards or another person saying the multiplication calculation. Which numbers are good to choose? Which numbers rarely come up?

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. Continue the game with each player doing the same. The winner is whoever has the most dominoes at the end. This game can be played with a set of dominoes, two playing cards or you could make your own set focusing on a specific times table.

Table Square

Children can be given a blank square with the numbers arranged in a random order and complete a speed test!

We are happy to give you photocopies of these multiplication grids to practise at home - please just ask!

Please visit our website for more ideas.

- Children can access a variety of learning activities in the 'Growing My Brain Zone!' (http://www.woodsidejunior.co.uk/web/growing_my_brain_zone)
- Information about all areas of the national curriculum including spelling and maths (http://www.woodsidejunior.co.uk/web/ks2_curriculum)



Spelling and Times Tables guide

A guide for parents

We are often asked:

“What can we do to support our children to learn their spellings and times tables at home?”

Learning spelling and times tables at home can be a chore, especially during the holidays.

Sometimes an idea shared or a fresh way of learning is needed to keep children interested.

Spelling

Some really useful spelling tips can be found on theschoolrun.com such as...

“I find the best way to learn new words is to write them over and over again. To make it more interesting for my daughter, we don't just use pencil and paper – she also practises with bath crayons on the wall tiles, a mini whiteboard and pavement chalks in the garden.”

“We use good old-fashioned drilling for learning spellings. The ‘Look, say, cover, write, check’ method works really well: we get them to practise once a day and reward them with computer time!”

“Mnemonics work well for my twins. We use all the tried-and-tested ones, such as ‘O U Lucky Duck’ for words like ‘could’ and ‘should’, but also make up our own, like ‘Balloons Always Land Lightly On Our Noses’ for ‘balloon’.”

“I write my daughter's words on sticky notes and put them in places where I know she'll see them often, such as in her lunch box and on her mirror. She can then glance at them in passing, which helps them sink in.”

Everybody has their tried and tested methods— why not try a different approach?

1. **ABC order**- Write spelling lists in alphabetical order.
2. **Rainbow Words** - Write the syllables in different colours.
3. **Silly sentence**- Write your words in ridiculous sentences.
4. **Picture words** - Draw a picture and write your words in the picture, eg in a cloud, in a flower etc
5. **Words without Vowels** - Write your words replacing all vowels with a line.
6. **Story words** - Write a short story using all your words.
7. **Wordsearch** - Make a wordsearch.
8. **Crossword** - Complete a pre-made crossword puzzle.
9. **Ransom words** - Write your words by cutting out letters in a newspaper or magazine and glue them on a paper.
10. **Words-in-words** - Write your word and then write at least 2 words made from each.
11. **Delicious words** - Write your words in whipped cream, peanut butter, or anything you can eat!
12. **Good Clean Words** - Write your words in shaving cream on a counter or some other surface that can be cleaned safely.
13. **Cheer your words** - Pretend you are a cheerleader and call out individual letters then the whole word! Sometimes you'll yell, sometimes you'll whisper!
14. **Sound Words** - Use an ipad and record your words and their spelling. Then listen back to it, checking to see that you spelled all the words correctly.
15. **X Words** - Write two words having one common letter so they criss-cross.
16. **Other Handed** - If you are right-handed, write with your left, or vice versa.
17. **Backwriting** - Using your finger, draw each letter on a partners' back, having the partner say the word when completed.
18. **Mobile Words** – Text the spellings WITHOUT predictive text!
19. **Flashwriting** - In a darkened room, use a flashlight to draw letters in the air. Great for on the ceiling in bed!
20. **30 Second Words** - Write a TV commercial using all the words from your list.