



TEACHING TIMES TABLES AT HOME!



Times tables are very important.

As a basic form of multiplication, they are the building blocks to more complex mathematics, and studies have shown that the earlier a child understands times tables, the better they become at maths.

If children can recall them, and their related division facts, quickly, they can make connections and apply them across other areas of maths. This means they are more successful in areas such as:

- Long multiplication
- Long and short division
- Pattern seeking
- Fractions
- Algebra
- Measures (such as area and volume)

In Year 4, children will now also be sitting the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)**. This is an onscreen check consisting of 25 times table questions to see how fluently children can recall their multiplication tables and identify those that need support. It should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. This year, in 2021, the test will be optional.

Repetition and **effective practice** make a big difference. Here are just a few ways that you can support your child at home.

1. Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)



[Times Tables Rock Stars: Play \(trockstars.com\)](http://trockstars.com)

Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice that our children at Hawridge and Cholesbury C of E School all have access to. For some children, they are set a particular table to work on, for others, each week concentrates on a different times table. The children can choose their character and aim to beat their score each time they practise.

According to their website, this format has very successfully boosted times tables recall speed for hundreds of thousands of pupils over the last 8 years in over 16,000 schools - both primary and secondary - worldwide.

2. Hang up a times table sheet



Times tables

Math-Whizz
by Whizz Education

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

Complete a chart together with your child and then hang it up in a place your child will visit regularly (e.g. their bedroom door, the refrigerator door, next to the computer). Set a regular time for both you and your child to sit down and have a casual, no pressure run through a particular set of times tables, perhaps just before dinner. Remember, the more often they see and practise their times tables, the more likely they are to learn them. Whizz Education have a handy times table sheet that you can download, or you could just put up colourful times tables facts instead.

3. Start Simple

Teaching times tables should be like building a house - you need to start with the foundations! Teach your children the simplest tables first and save the harder ones (e.g. 7s, 8s, 12s) for the end. The two times tables are a good starting point: they're quite straightforward as they just involve doubling each number. 10s are simple too as they just involve adding a zero to the number you're multiplying by 10 (because you are moving each digit one place to the left in the place value grid). Once they've mastered the basics, they can then conquer the more difficult tables.

4. Teach Tricks

Maths is full of tips and tricks - and times tables are no different.

- The 2s - every number is even and ends in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8
- The 3s - if you add together the digits, they will form a multiple of 3 e.g. $63, 6 + 3 = 9$ so 63 is a multiple of 3.
- The 4s - always end in 4, 8, 2, 6, 0 (in that order)
- The 5s - always end in a 0 or 5
- The 9s - there are many tricks for these! You can use your fingers, or notice that the digits in the tens column increase consecutively from 0-9 and the digits in the ones column decrease from 9-0.
- The 12s - increase from 1-12 in the tens column and follow the 2 times table in the ones column.

There are many more tricks; however, it is also important to encourage your child to ask why these techniques work and the mathematical reasoning behind them.

5. Listen to some fun songs



Catchy songs are a great way to get information stuck in your head! There are a lot of times table songs and rhymes on Youtube to support this (just make sure you watch them through yourself first). For older children, you could try videos by Youtuber Mr.DeMaio: a primary school teacher in the USA who uses clever parodies of pop songs to teach children their times tables.

6. Play Games

There are a lot of times tables games available out there. These include:

- Times tables snap
- Flash cards with memory cues
- Online games (e.g. BBC Bitesize or other trusted websites)

You could also create your own card game using a deck of cards. For example, two players draw a card from a deck. They then flip their cards over and the first person to correctly guess the total of the two cards multiplied together gets to put the cards in their winning pile. The person with the most cards in their winning pile at the end of the game wins.

You could also invent your own 'times table treasure hunt' with sticky notes dotted around the house and multiplication clues given on each.

7. Draw a Waldorf multiplication flower



For creative children, they may wish to use drawing to help them. This activity begins by writing a number between 2 and 12 in centre of the flower. They then draw 12 petals around the centre, with each petal containing the numbers 1 through 12. The last step is to draw another set of 12 petals, which contain the centre number multiplied by each petal in the inner circle.

8. Quiz them regularly, but not incessantly

Once you think your child is getting the hang of their times tables, it's time to put them to the test. It's best to do this is when there's nothing else really going on, like while you're walking them to school. You could try to allocate a specific time of the

week to quiz them, rather than springing it on them randomly, especially if they are anxious about it.

9. Reward their efforts

When encouraging child to pursue something like times tables, encouragement, praise and rewards can go a long way. However, remember that you shouldn't just reward your child for getting answers right - if you can see that they've been trying hard but haven't quite mastered their times tables yet, praise them too to encourage persistence. Also, remember to stay positive if they get the answers wrong, learning should always be an enjoyable experience!

Many of these ideas were taken from websites:

