



Why do children need to learn their times tables?

Times tables are a brilliant brain-training exercise for children. Good times tables knowledge is vital for quick mental maths calculations and problem solving; for example, if a child knows that $6 \times 3 = 18$ they will be able to work out that $6 \times 30 = 180$ or $60 \times 3 = 180$ almost instantly.

Times tables are often taught separately from other areas of maths to begin with, but they're the building blocks for many of the topics children learn, such as division, multiplication, fractions and percentages.

Your child needs to know all their times tables (up to the 12 times table) by the end of Year 4. In Years 5 and 6 they will be moving onto much more complicated concepts, such as multiplying and dividing using four-digit numbers, plus problem-solving involving fractions and percentages. It is therefore vital that they enter Year 5 really confident in all their times tables.

Alongside learning their times tables, it is **vital that children learn the division facts for each times table** (for example: division facts for the 3 x table are: $6 \div 3 = 2$, $9 \div 3 = 3$, $12 \div 4 = 3$). Make sure you test them on these until they are really confident with them. It will put down a solid foundation for dividing larger numbers later in KS2.

Times tables are the building blocks for multiplication, division, fractions and percentages. They are vital for life.

How can I help my child?

Always use correct times table vocabulary when you talk to your child. First of all, show them a times table number sentence, such as $6 \times 4 = 24$. Explain that 6 and 4 are **factors** of 24, and that 24 is a **multiple** of 6 and a multiple of 4.

Constant repetition is one of the best ways to learn them. Encourage your child to chant their tables forwards, backwards, in and out of order. Say one 3 is 3 rather than 1 times 3 is 3 as it rolls off the tongue much better and aids memory. Get into the habit of practising times tables with your child whenever the opportunity presents itself, but only do it in short bursts (when you're stuck in a traffic jam, say, or washing their hair in the bath). Use different voices/actions to make it more fun.

Quick fire facts: fire a question at your child, any day, anywhere!

36	48	66
12	6	72

Tables bingo: Draw a 6 x 6 grid on a blank piece of paper. Encourage your child to write in the multiples (answers) of the table they are learning. Then call out a times table number sentence, e.g. $3 \times 4 = ?$ and they cross out the answer. When they get 3 in a row/column they shout 'line'. When they get all, shout 'bingo'. To play against your child, draw two grids and write out the times table factors on cards which can be turned over.

Ball games:

Throw and catch

Stand opposite your child and call out a times table number sentence as you throw the ball. They answer it as they catch it.

Hot potato

A great game for larger groups of children. Stand in a circle. Take it in turns to throw the ball around the circle. Each time the person throwing says a times table number sentence, the person catching answers it. If the ball is dropped or if the question is answered incorrectly, the person goes down on one knee. They can get up again the next time they get it right.

Snowball fight

Write times tables number sentences on different pieces of paper. Screw them up into balls and have a snowball fight. When "Stop" is shouted pick up a ball, unravel it and answer the question.

Using coloured card, you can make simple games to help your child learn their times tables.

Speed Match: For instance, cut some card into 24 identical pieces, and write out all the questions for a times table on 12 of the cards. Then write the answers on the other 12 cards. Spread them out on a table and see if your child can match them all up correctly. Once they are more confident, time them with a stopwatch. See if they can try to beat their own record each time they do it!

Memory Game: Using the cards above lay all of the cards face down on the table. Ask your child to turn two cards over. If they match then they keep them and have another go. If not they place them back face down in exactly the same place and you have a turn. The winner is the person with the most pairs of cards at the end. This is a great game for not only developing times tables but also memory.

Tables snap: Cut some card into 24 identical pieces, and write out all the questions for a times table on 12 of the cards. Then write the answers on the other 12 cards. Play snap matching the questions to the answers.

Wands at the ready: A great game for siblings learning their tables together. Stand 2 children facing one another. Call out a times table sentence e.g. $5 \times 6 =$ They have to cast their answer before their partner. If they win they score a point. First to 10 wins!

We all have a few particular times table questions that we get stuck on!

If your child finds a particular equation difficult, for example $7 \times 8 = 56$, get them to 'single it out' by drawing it in bubble writing with marker pens on a big piece of paper. Stick it up in their room so they see it every time they walk in. You could get them to say it in a silly voice every time they see it, which should help them to remember it even better!

Using online games:

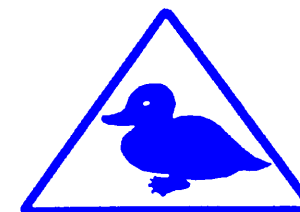
There are hundreds of online games that your children can use to practice their times tables. **These are most successful when you play with your child- to challenge and support them.** A few are listed below:

www.sumdog.com

www.topmarks.co.uk

www.ICTgames.co.uk

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



**LEARNING
TIMES TABLES**

**Caversham Park Primary
School**