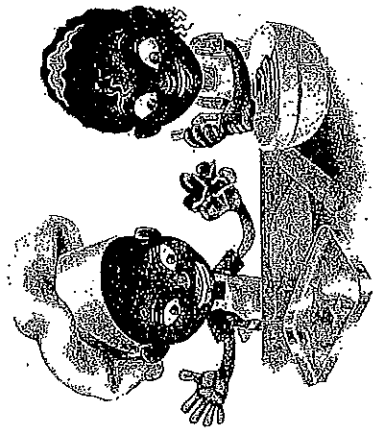


Food!

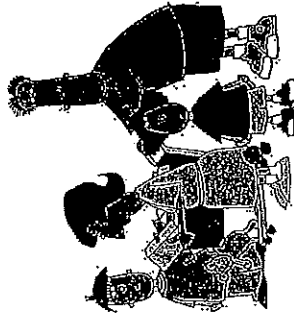


- Can you cut your toast into 4 pieces? Can you cut it into triangles?
- Setting the table. Counting the right number of plates etc. How many more do we need?
- Can you make shapes/ patterns out of the knives and forks. Can you put them in the right place in the drawers?

- Helping with the cooking by measuring and counting ingredients.
- Setting the timer.
- Positional language at dinner time: what is on the rice, where are the carrots etc?

Going shopping

- Reading price tags
- Counting items into the basket
- Finding and counting coins
- Comparing weights – which is heavier



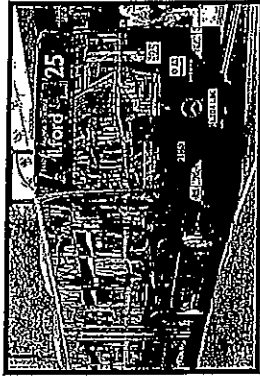
Measuring

- Are you taller than a ... ?
- Marking height on the wall.
- Cut hand shapes out of paper. How many hands long is the couch? How long is the table? Which is longer?
- Who has the biggest hands in our family?
- How many steps from the gate to the front door?



Helping your child learn at home in

MATHS



In the street

- Recognising bus numbers
- Number plate hunt. Who can find a 7? Add the numbers up.
- Comparing door numbers
- Counting – how many lampposts on the way to school?

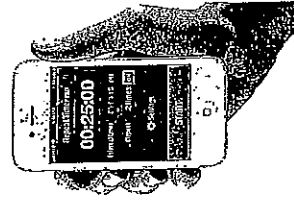
Doing the washing

- Counting in 2s – matching shoes
- Sorting by colour and size.
- Matching/pairing up socks.
- Find four shoes that are different sizes. Can you put them in order.



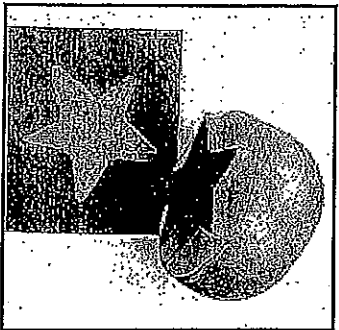
Time

- What day is it yesterday, today, tomorrow?
- Use timers, phones and clocks to measure short periods of time.
- Count down 10, 20 seconds to get to the table/ into bed etc.
- Recognising numbers on the clock. If you cover a number, what number was missing?



Shapes

- Cut a potato into shapes (circles, triangle etc). Use with paint to make pictures and patterns.
- Cut out shapes from coloured paper/newspaper and arrange into pictures.
- Shape hunt: Can you find a square in your house (windows etc), a circle ...

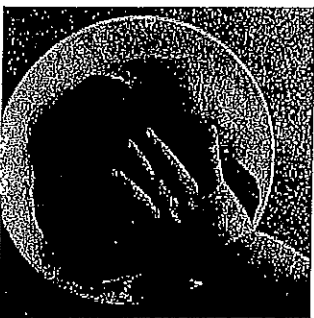


Playdough

Here's a simple recipe:

- 1 cup of plain flour
- 1 cup of water
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- Half a cup of salt
- food colouring and essences (optional)

Put all ingredients in a large saucepan, and heat slowly, stirring all the time until it forms a ball. Keep it wrapped in clingfilm or in a covered tub to stop it drying out.

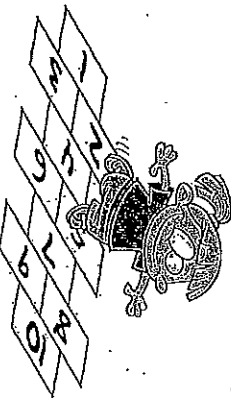


Then

- Make numerals and shapes
- Sort shapes into groups, or order by size
- Make long and short wiggly snakes.

Games

- Putting cards into piles
- Jigsaws (you can make your own by cutting up a magazine picture)
- Snap (matching pairs) or Happy Families (collect 4 of a kind)
- Snakes and ladders or other simple dice games.
- Adding numbers on two dice.
- Bingo, with numbers or shapes
- Hopscotch



Number rhymes and songs

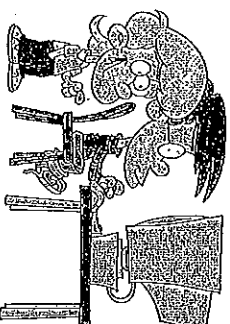
Eg: 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Mummy called the doctor and the doctor said:
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
4 little monkeys jumping on the bed ...



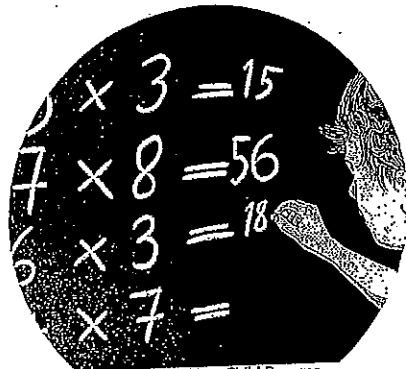
Your child can teach you lots more or try this website which has the words and sings it for you:
http://www.nurseryrhymes4u.com/NURSERY_RHYMES/COUNTING.html

Internet maths games:

www.mathszone.co.uk
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>
http://www.familylearning.org.uk/online_math_games.html
www.sesamestreet.org



A Grown Up's Guide to Times Tables



How to Help Your Child Become a Times Tables Master



How Do I Help My Child?

All children have preferred ways to learn – just like we do as adults! Your child may like to write out times tables over and over again, or they may learn best when singing, dancing or playing a board game. There are many different ways to practise times tables. In this guide, you will find a variety of activities to help your child practise their times tables. Choose the activities which your child enjoys the most and helps them to learn best. That way, you'll help your child to become a 'Times Tables Master'.

Times Tables Games and Activities

1. The Traditional Methods

It's often said that the old ways are the best and certainly this can be the case when learning times tables, but they don't always suit every child, so be mindful of which methods your child prefers the most.

Recite the times table: This is the simplest way to practise times tables as it can be done any time and in any place – walking to school, in the car, at bedtime – simply say the times table together.

Write it out: Again, simple, but it can be very effective. Simply write out the times table you are working on over and over again until your child knows it.

Quick-fire questions: Whether out walking, in the park or at home, ask your child mixed calculations from the times table you are learning and keep doing it until they can get them all right. Don't forget to ask the inverse questions too (see introduction).

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2

2. Sing Your Times Tables

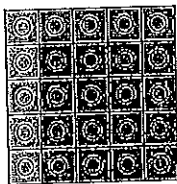
Music and jingles really aid our memory and can help us learn a variety of things, including times tables. Have a quick search on the Internet and you will find a plethora of songs. There are also great apps out there with times table songs to learn. Make sure that you watch any videos first to check that they are suitable for your children.

Another option is to write your own song. This is a great activity as it will get your child's creative juices flowing. They can try to match the times tables facts to an existing song that they know, such as a nursery rhyme or their favourite pop song.

3. Use Building Bricks

Bringing a favourite toy into learning makes any activity fun. Ask your child to make an array that shows a times table question using building bricks. For example:

$$5 \times 5 = 25$$



In the array above, each row has five dots and there are five columns. Therefore, when we multiply the length by the width, you get 25 dots in the square. Your child could try to create an array with bricks for all the calculations in a particular times table such as 2×2 , 3×2 , 4×2 etc.

A great variation of this is to make arrays using sweets. The best thing about this is that when they have completed their times tables practice you can share the sweets at the end (see if you can divide them between people equally, to help learn division facts)!

4. Computer Games

Does your child love playing on a tablet, laptop or mobile phone? There are now a range of online games and apps that you can play to help you learn the times tables. A quick search in your app store or online will help you find many different variations of times tables games. One example is Space Explorer: Times Tables Game. In this game, your child can practise multiplication facts for all times tables up to 10×10 within a time limit.

5. Dance Mat

This is a fun activity if your child likes moving around. On sheets of paper, write out some answers to the multiplications you want your child to practise, for example the $3 \times$ table. Place them in a circle on the floor and ask your child to stand in the middle. Say a question, for example 3×3 , and your child has to tap the answer with their foot. Try to get faster at this so that it becomes a dance.

This activity can be varied by jumping from answer to answer, using chalk on the ground outside. Watch it wash away the next time it rains without leaving any mess!

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4

6. Splat!

A similar concept to the previous game but this involves placing all the number cards on a table and asking your child times table questions such as 5×3 . Your child has to then splat the right answer. This can be done by hand or using an object like a fly swat. To make this game more competitive, play it with two players. The first to splat the correct answer is the winner.

7. Board Games

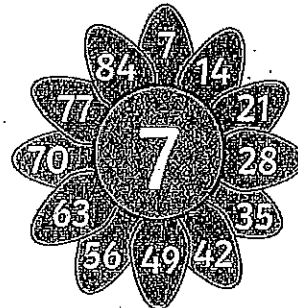
In this pack, and on the Twinkl website, you will find a range of board games which can be used to help your child practise their times tables, such as **3 to 12 Times Table Multiplication and Division Board Games Pack**. You will also find a range of worksheets and activities, such as **Times Tables Fortune Tellers**.

8. Times Tables Tennis

You need a pair of rackets or bats (tennis, ping pong) to play this game and two players. Each person takes a racket and you begin to say a times table as you hit a ball (real or imaginary) to each other. Keep counting until somebody gets it wrong, and then start again. This is a great way to learn the times tables in order.

9. Times Table Flowers

If your child enjoys art and crafts, this is a fun way to reinforce knowledge of a times table. It can be drawn or made using coloured paper for the petals which are glued around the outside of the flower. Simply draw a flower and in the middle, write the number of the times table you are learning. Around the flower, on the petals, write all the multiples of that number up to $12 \times$ the number. This is great to use as a memory aid when recalling times tables.



These are just a few suggestions to help you get started. There are many ways to practise times tables, but remember to have fun while doing it and to do it little and often – this is the best way to help your child retain their times tables knowledge.

Beating the Homework Battle

Homework in itself can be a controversial issue. Many education professionals are sceptical about how effective homework is in supporting a child's learning, especially at primary school level. Yet most parents are keen that their child should receive homework, not least because it keeps parents in touch with what is happening at school and how their child is doing. Schools have many different approaches to homework too - some send weekly spellings, tables and other activities; whereas others may set homework fortnightly or may provide a piece of project work.

Whatever approach your child's school takes, it is important to realise that studies in Britain have shown that children who are supported with homework by their families are more likely to perform better in exams at age 16 than those who are not. This is likely to be less to do with the homework they are actually doing, and more to do with what they are learning from you about the importance of education and a positive approach to learning.

So how can parents effectively support their children with homework? These tips may be helpful.

Show an interest in what your child is doing. By showing an interest you are communicating that you think school work is important and should be taken seriously. Check what needs to be done and look at their work afterwards, praising and making positive suggestions.

Set up a regular study time. For younger children with less homework, this could be a regular reading time before bed plus an hour at the weekend; for older children you may need to help them set a more regular schedule. Check with your child's school about the amount of time they should be spending each evening/weekend on homework, then talk to your child about the best time to complete work. When do they feel most alert? When is the house likely to be calmer and more quiet? Talk also about the risks of leaving everything to the last minute. Some children (and adults!) work better like this, but it can have its pitfalls.

Provide your child with a calm, quiet space to complete work. If your child is easily distracted, you may wish to make this a public space within your house rather than their bedroom. Don't let your child be distracted by TVs, phones or other devices.

Provide whatever equipment your child may need to complete their work. At primary school level this is likely to be paper, a pencil, ruler and perhaps also a rubber. They may also need some coloured pencils. Sometimes your child may need to conduct research. They can use the Internet or they could try the local library, which will have lots of topic-based books and staff who can give advice.

Make completion of homework part of the household routine. If you have written work to complete too, try sitting down with your child and working alongside one another. This also teaches them that the requirement to complete tasks does not go away once we are grownups!

Be quietly supportive as your child completes homework, but don't do it for them. Not only is this not supporting their learning, it also gives them the message that you can do it better because they are not good enough. Whilst it is reasonable to sit with your seven-year-old whilst they complete their work, your involvement should gradually decrease as they become older and more independent, depending on their needs.

Encourage daily reading right from the start. Studies have shown that reading with your child at home is the most effective way in which you can influence their attainment at school.

Express high expectations for your child from an early age, in terms of their approach to learning and the effort they put in. They will most likely take their lead on amount, quality, effort and enjoyment from the expectations you have of them.

Ask your child to explain their work to you. What have they been learning, and what strategies have they been taught? Ask them to explain it to you as if they were the teacher and you were the pupil. This is a really powerful way of helping children understand what they have learnt. They may be learning different approaches at school to the ones you learnt as a child (particularly in maths), so your inexperience with these methods means they'll need to explain clearly to you as a novice learner! Try to avoid the temptation to teach your method to them until they're confident with the method they've been taught at school.

Encourage regular breaks, during which your child has a 5 minute walk around, perhaps quick drink or a healthy snack.

Break tasks up if this is how your child works better. For example, learn three spellings now, then three more this afternoon and the rest tomorrow.

Encourage your child to be organised, and to know what homework they have and when it is due to be handed in. Help them to make this organisation into a habit. From Key Stage 2 (Year 3) and up, most schools provide a homework diary for children to record what they have to do. Many schools also publish homework details on their websites.

Let your child face the consequences if homework is not handed in on time. This is increasingly important as they approach secondary school age.

Praise your child for homework completed. Try to praise the effort your child put in rather than the outcome. Use this approach also when asking about the results of spellings and tables tests - look for how your child is improving and whether they are able to learn from mistakes made. If your child can see the progress she or he is making, they're much more likely to make further efforts in their work.

Unfortunately, homework can still become a battleground. Children may be reluctant to complete work because they found it difficult in class or because they are tired or want to do something else. Parents may be tired after a hard working week, and may struggle to support their children particularly as teaching methods have changed so much since they were at school. Some parents have to fight the urge to do the work for their child. What should be a pleasant, calm but important activity can become tense and fraught with anxiety, and this can then become a pattern of behaviour which is repeated every weekend. Here are some ideas which may help to alleviate some of the homework stress:

Talk to your child. Why are they so reluctant to complete their work? Try to get to the root cause so that you can address it directly.

Talk to your child's teacher. You may be able to find out if your child has found this work challenging in class, or ask for tips on how to support them.

Keep calm! This is easier said than done when your child is flat-out refusing to do their work, but you don't want to create a vicious circle of stress and anger around homework.

Let your child face the consequences of not completing work. Whatever the consequence is at school, let your child face this. If you have a special trip or activity planned at the weekend explain that homework must come first and if it is not completed, the activity won't go ahead.

Limit screen time if homework is not completed. Your child needs to see that their schoolwork and education are a priority.

If you feel your child's homework is taking up too much time, is too hard for them to complete, or is causing genuine distress, you must seek help from the school. Homework is only useful if it can be completed independently, with perhaps some gentle support from you, and in a reasonable timeframe. Let the school know if this is a problem for you.

'Growth Mindset' theory offers many good ideas for how to communicate positively with your child about their effort and attainment at school. If you're interested to learn more, see the Twinkl '[Parents' Guide to Growth Mindset Theory](#)'.

Help your child with

maths

I spy

...make a game of spotting shape and patterns in real life

Get tools

...make tools like rulers, weighing scales, calculators and measuring tapes easily accessible around the house

Use games

...encourage games such as card games or board games that involve counting or patterns

Cook up a storm

...use measuring out ingredients to reinforce maths skills.

Ask questions

...ask questions comparing real life things. Which do you think is... the tallest, the smallest, the heaviest, the longest, the fastest, the most expensive?

Talk about it

...find out what skills are being taught in maths lessons and for homework. Be sure to ask about how answers were worked out!

Go online

...look online & in app stores for appropriate number and problem-solving games

Out and about

When shopping count up the shopping and count out change together.

Involve maths in everyday life.

Money, cooking, music, computers, art, construction etc...

any real life situation!

