

Why is it important for my child to know their times tables?

When children are confident with their times tables, mental arithmetic becomes much easier. A secure knowledge of multiplication and division facts supports many areas of the KS2 maths curriculum, including long multiplication, long division, fractions and finding the area of shapes.



Mastery of multiplication and division facts will help children succeed throughout primary school and set them up for success at secondary school.

Learning multiplication facts is most effective when there is collaboration with school, parents and children. In school we regularly spend time practising times tables. However, children make the most progress when they also practise at home, both independently and with the support of parents or carers.

When does my child need to know their times tables?

In England, children are expected to know the following in each year of KS2:

Year 3: quick recall of multiplication and division facts for the 2, 3, 4-, 5-, 8- and 10-times tables.

Year 4: quick recall of times tables up to 12×12 .

Year 5 and 6: revision of all multiplication and division facts for the times tables up to 12×12 .

How can I help my child to practise their times tables at home?

Short, regular practise (5- 10 minutes) is far more effective than occasional longer sessions. Children need to be able to recall their times tables, within 2-3 seconds. This leaves no time for counting up (e.g. 2, 4, 6, 8) in order to get to the answer.

- Stick to one times table at a time to minimise confusion
- Start with chanting, singing and writing them out in order e.g.

$$1 \times 4 = 4$$

$$2 \times 4 = 8$$

- Then move on to completing just the answers quickly in order - on paper or verbally with your child
- Finally, move on to completing the answers in a random order.

- Quick fire quizzes e.g. in the car, when brushing teeth etc.
- Ask multiplication questions during everyday activities e.g. "If we have 4 plates with 3 biscuits on each, how many biscuits altogether?"
- Flashcards
- A game of Bingo but with times table answers

Useful online resources

- TT rockstars app
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>