Multiplication tables – some tips for home learning

There are plenty of different ways in which you can support your children in learning their multiplication tables.

Multiplication tables grid

The multiplication table grid is useful for revising tables, summarising learning and exploring patterns.

×	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
11	11	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	110	121	132
12	12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144

Multiplication tables songs

Listening to songs can be a great way of memorising the multiplication tables. You could play CDs in the car or listen to songs via the internet. You will find some memorable multiplication tables songs on YouTube.

Flashcard-based games

You can write out the multiplication tables facts on cards and they play a variety of games:

- Memory pairs – write questions (eg 3x4) and answers (eg 12) on different cards and then find matching pairs
- Say the reverse - write the question (eg 3x4) and answer (eg 12) on opposite sides of the same card. Then go through a stack of mixed cards with children saying what is on the reverse, before turning over to check.
- Find the x tables facts – 'hide and seek' around the house.
- Keep a record of how many flashcard facts children can say in a set time, eg 30 seconds.

Patterns

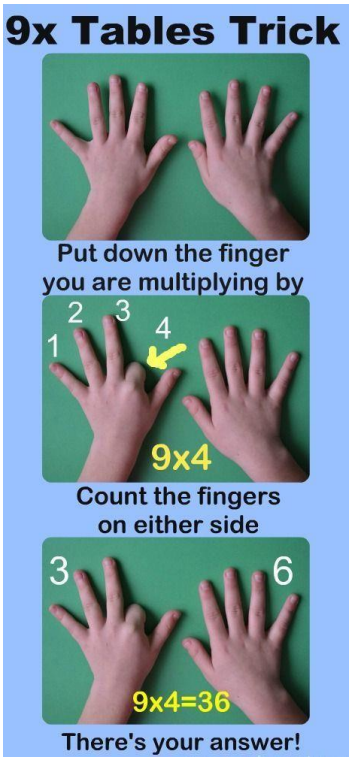
The 2, 4 and 8 multiplication tables are doubles of each other, so if you know your 4x tables facts you can double these to get the 8x tables facts. This also works for the 3, 6 and 12 multiplication tables.

Learn the square numbers (coloured yellow on the grid) separately and remember this pattern.

Always remember that the facts come in pairs – eg 5 x 3 is the same as 3 x 5. This effectively halves the number of multiplication tables facts that children need to learn.

9x table

For the 9x table, you can work back from 10x tables facts, eg 9x7 is (10x7)-7 or 70-7, which is 63. As children will already know their 10x facts, this is a successful trick.



The digits in the 9x table facts always add up to 9. This is also illustrated by the finger method (see picture). Although this is too slow to rely on, it can help at the early stages of learning the 9x table.

Silly sayings

Silly rhymes and sayings can help with tricky facts.

8 x 8 = 64 *I ate and ate and was sick on the floor, eight times eight is 64.*

56 = 7 x 8 *5,6,7,8!*

7 x 7 = 49 *Seven times seven is like a rhyme, it all adds up to 49.*

Bingo

You can play bingo games together. Make a grid of six squares on a piece of paper and write a number in each square from the target tables. Pick a times table question and if they have the answer, they mark it off. First one to mark off all the squares wins.

Finally, consider motivation and reward…

At St Gregory's we build, encourage and reward children's attitude to learning using Growth Mindset strategies. To use this approach at home, reward children's effort and determination, rather than their attainment. So for example, you might reward your child for every 10 minutes they spend learning their multiplication tables, rather than rewarding them when they 'pass' a multiplication tables test at school. You could always take a picture of your child learning their tables and send it to their class teacher on Class DoJo, it would be lovely to see what the children are doing at home.

If you find any of your own exciting ways of learning multiplication tables, please feel free to share on Class DoJo or give them to your child's class teacher and we will put them on our school website.

Learning is always more successful when it is relaxed and varied, so use lots of different methods and have fun!