A Parents' guide to learning times tables

x	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

What order should we learn times tables in?

Start with the easy tables first - **10x, 2x and 5x times tables**

The 10x tables are a natural part of counting, the two times tables are familiar because of doubling, even numbers and they simply chant so well 2, 4, 6, 8, who do we appreciate… The 5x tables are helped by knowing the 10x tables and the fact that we have five fingers

The **4x and 9x times tables** are usually next. The 4x tables are double the 2x tables and the 9x tables have a few shortcuts to help you learn them

After this you could try the **3x times tables** followed by the **6x times tables**.

Then the **8x times tables and the 7x times tables** - which are generally regarded as difficult

The UK national curriculum has re-included the 11x and 12x tables – many schools do them anyway – I think these should be learned last and separately, even though the 11s are a doddle!

What are the methods for learning tables?

- Stick to one times table at a time to minimise confusion
- Start with chanting and writing them out slowly in order
- Then move on to completing the answers quickly in order - on paper or verbally with your child
- Finally, move on to completing the answers in any order

Top tips!

- Keep reminding your child that 3 x 4 is the same as 4 x 3 - this effectively halves the number of tables facts
- Each times table has a square number 3x3, 7x7 etc (see the coloured numbers in the tables grid). These are special "hand or foot holds" that can act as memory hooks - emphasise them!
- Talk about the numbers are you encounter them "5 x 8 = 40 that's mummy's age" , "3 x 6 = 18 that's our house number"… this makes more memory hooks
- When you're trying to speed up recalling tables introduce some games

Tips and tricks for learning each times tables

The 2s, 4s and 8 times tables are doubles of each other - with many common answers - 2x8=16, 4x4=16, 8x2 = 16

The nine times tables can use the ten times tables and work back or compensate - so for 5 x 9, think (5 x 10) - 5 = 50 - 5 = 45, also note that the digits in the answer always add to 9. There's also a [finger method](#)

The 3 and 6 times table are tricky. Do the 3s first then the 6s - expect these to be more difficult and make an allowance in time

The 7 times tables are hard but if you've done the other tables first you'll find you've encountered most of the 7s already elsewhere - such as 7x4=28, 7x3=21

7x8=56 is the hardest times table! - But tell this to your child and make a big deal about it and they'll never forget it!

Language and times tables

There are many different ways to say the tables and they're all correct. It is good for children to hear all the different ways to say the tables, especially as this will consolidate the language they hear and use at school

Use a variety of different ways, if your child doesn't understand one way then try another!

For example:

- three times eight is…
- three multiplied by
- three eights are…
- three lots of four are…

Mastering the times tables

You can know all the times tables without really going on to master them. So once your child has learned the times tables individually the next stage involves practising recalling them quickly in any random order

The practice can be verbal or written but either way you're looking for accurate answers in within three seconds

Try these apps:
- Squeebles
- My Times Tables

Check out this website for more apps… Key Stage Fun