

## Activities for parents to support the learning of multiplication tables

There are many times table games available on line which will help children to recall times tables and division facts. You can also buy times tables CDs for children to sing along to from a number of shops and supermarkets.

### THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Other words for multiplication are "lots of", "groups of", "product" so you are asking.....

How many have you got if you've got 3 bowls of 5 sweets?

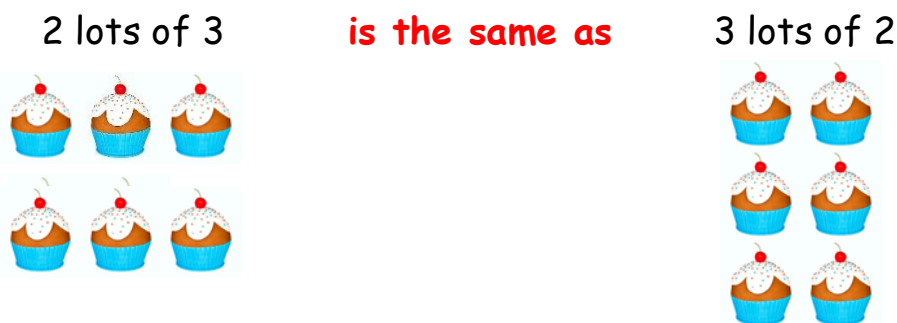
3 lots of 5 /  $3 \times 5$ .

### 2. Learn 1 get 1 free!

Multiplication is perfect for switchers! For example  $3 \times 2$  gives the same result as  $2 \times 3$ .

Knowing this means children reduce the number of times table facts they need to learn by half

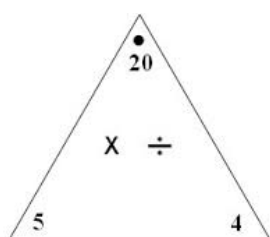
2 lots of 3      is the same as      3 lots of 2



### 3. Four facts

Children learn the relationship between multiplication and division.

They should learn:  $5 \times 4 = 20$ ,  $4 \times 5 = 20$ ,  $20 \div 4 = 5$  and  $20 \div 5 = 4$



## Ideas to support the learning of Times Tables

### 1. Singing, chanting:

These "old-fashioned" strategies still help. Say the multiples as you go up the stairs - eg:

2, 4, 6, 8.... Time how quickly they can do it. Can they run up the stairs? Can they do it backwards when they come back down? (Please walk forwards though we don't want to be responsible for any A&E trips!)

### 2. Speed writing:

How quickly can you write all the facts in the  $\times$  table of choice? Can you beat your time? Race your parents / older siblings!

### 3. Fizz Buzz: (if you've got older siblings to join in - this works well)

Count around in a group with each person taking it in turns to say the next number. Count again, but instead of saying the number the child has to say **fizz** instead of the multiples of 5. For example 1, 2, 3, 4 **fizz**, 6, 7, 8, 9 **fizz**. Repeat this time saying **buzz** for multiples of 2. A challenge is to say **fizz** for the multiples of 5 and **buzz** for the multiples of 2.

### 4. Pairs:

Make sets of 0-12 number cards. Turn them all face down - take it in turns to randomly turn one over and multiply by your chosen table ( eg  $\times 5$ ) if its right you keep it - if not it goes back face down. Play on their own - how quickly can they work them all out?

### 5. Useful websites

[www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/multiplication-and-division](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/multiplication-and-division)

[www.mathszone.co.uk](http://www.mathszone.co.uk)