

Parent Guide



@twinklparents

We are excited to share this content with you. If you are interested in finding more resources made especially for Parents, then check out these links to different areas of the **Twinkl Parents** hub.

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What is this resource and how do I use it?

This resource features ten ways in which you can support your child in preparing for the MTC, so that you know that they are getting the best possible chance of success.

What is the focus of this resource?

Empowering Parents

Understanding Assessment

Multiplication Tables Check

Further Ideas and Suggestions

This category on the **Parents Hub** is packed full of helpful activities to support your child in preparing for the MTC. There are handy guides as well as fun games like **bingo** and **zap**, plus lots of wellbeing resources like these lovely **lunchbox notes**.

Parents Blog



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Top Ten Tips to Master the MTC

If you're looking for ways to prepare your child for the year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, here are our top ten tips.

1

Start with Skip Counting

If your child struggles with reciting their times tables, why not practise skip counting first? Your child will begin **skip counting** in key stage 1. Take your child's times tables learning back to basics by grouping counters and practising skip counting using a physical representation until your child feels comfortable.

2

Use Visual Aids

Once your child is secure with skip counting using physical counters, you can begin to use visual aids such as **number lines** or 100 squares to support them. It's important to focus on one times table at a time so that your child doesn't get overwhelmed or confused, but marking off multiples on a **100 square** can be a great way of helping your child to spot patterns in times tables. Why not hang up a **multiplication square** somewhere so that your child can see it every day?

3

Repeat, Repeat, Repeat

Once your child has learnt a times table fact, it's crucial that they continue to practise it so that they are secure. It can be useful to focus on a set of five times table facts and swap in new ones gradually rather than simply moving on and abandoning the facts they have previously learnt.

4

Make it Fun!

Children love to learn in a variety of ways, including through music and song or through movement and **games**. No matter how your child likes to learn, try to make their times table practice exciting and engaging for them. You could sing rhymes or songs together to help them memorise their facts, play card games or even have fun exercising together!

5

Make it Stick

While learning through games and songs is great, sometimes children just need to write down their **times tables** to make them stick. It's been proved that the act of physically writing something down helps our brains to commit facts to memory. Although your child won't be using pencil and paper to complete the actual MTC, jotting down their times tables is a useful way to revise. You can mix it up by having them write on a whiteboard, using different coloured pens or even by writing in chalk on the pavement.

6

Increase Their Speed

Once your child is confident in their accuracy in recalling times tables facts, it's time to work on speed. In the MTC, your child will have 6 seconds to answer each question. Many children love a challenge – why not start by giving them 15 seconds to answer a question and then decrease the time limit gradually? This is also a great way of building their confidence as many children will be able to recall facts quickly and will enjoy the feeling of having to wait for the timer to run down. You could also give your child a set of questions to complete in a set time, such as 1 minute, then tally up their correct answers and find their average speed. It's important to remember that your child should be using instant recall skills rather than spending time working out the answers.

7

Use Technology

As the MTC is completed digitally, either on a computer or tablet, it makes sense for your child to practise in the same conditions. Your child's teacher will likely help your child to prepare using the official government website, but there are plenty more **games**, apps and websites that you can use to help your child practise.

8

Practise Little and Often

It's important to foster your child's love of learning and encourage them to do well, but make sure that you don't overwhelm them. Your child doesn't need a strict, regimented revision routine to succeed. It can be much more beneficial for your child if they practise little and often – short bursts in a fun and engaging way help. Grab moments of practice wherever you can, such as at the breakfast table or during a short car journey.

9

Take Care of Their Wellbeing

At the end of the day, the MTC is simply another way for your child's school to measure their progress. There is no pass or fail and your child probably won't even be told how they got on. For some children, the idea of an upcoming assessment can fill them with anxiety. Help your child to build their confidence and self-esteem, encourage them to try their best and support them if they are feeling stressed or nervous.

10

Reward Their Efforts

Many children thrive off rewards. If your child is motivated by reward, why not try using a sticker chart to encourage them to keep up with their practice? It's important that you reward their persistence and their attitude rather than their academic ability – remember that each child learns at their own pace.

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.



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