Multiplication Practice Options

We are at the point in the school year when the task of memorizing multiplication facts is upon us. We are just finishing up the chapter where they learn the concept of multiplication as repeated addition. They also learn about visual models of multiplication such as drawing equal groups and making arrays, the commutative property of multiplication, and word problems.

The current goal is for students to commit the facts to memory. At school, we will be practicing daily, but only for about 5 or 10 minutes; this is not enough for many students to commit their multiplication facts to memory. We will practice by times tables; starting with the 3s and 4s, then moving on to the 6s, 7s, 8s, and 9s. Along the way, I will be keeping track of their progress. Students will be moving through 26 practice pages in a program called Mastering Math Facts. In addition, every couple of weeks, I will be giving them a “5 minute test” to see how many facts they can complete in 5 minutes. They have been given a baseline already; the goal is for the number of facts they can complete automatically to increase.

There are several choices for fact practice; “old school” flash cards [1] (attaching the math cats cards that we will be using at school), web-based practice [2] (some specific to the stage of learning), [3] apps, and other web-based games and practice [4]. Games are most effective once a student has gained a level of automaticity.

We will be practicing daily at school, but students will need reinforcement and consistent practice at home to be most successful. I’m suggesting that students practice 5-15 minutes daily (or at least 5 days a week) for the next two months.

1) Flash Cards: I’m attaching the Math Cats cards that we will use at school. If accompanied by the “house”, they are well suited for independent practice. We will be using pages 4-12 of the document I’m attaching and the 10 x 10 = 100 card from page 13.

2) Web-based options: these are just a couple that I’m familiar with. Please read below for some notes and some pros/cons of each one.

a) Speed Math

https://www.mathsisfun.com/games/speed-math.html

- Better if students has memorized most of the facts
- Can choose operation (variations of addition and multiplication) and number of questions
- Records number right, number wrong, and speed (average speed over time as well).
- Pro: Choose an answer, typing not necessary (not testing typing speed)
b) **Speed Math (old version)**

https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/math-trainer-multiply-old.html

- Kind of in-between Speed Math and Math Trainer, some memorization is necessary
- Can choose amount of time to practice
- Uses timer and reports number correct and number wrong
- Pros: can choose fact table **parts** (see #3 if you want a specific times table) to practice

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c) **Math Trainer/multiplication**

https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/math-trainer-multiply.html

- Better if in the **learning stages of multiplication facts automaticity**
- Can choose operation (add, subtract, multiply, divide)
- Can choose amount of practice time
- Pros: for multiplication, can choose “times tables” 3x row = 3s, 8x row = 8s
  Question cutoff—can choose shorter or longer


**Multiplication Practice Options**

**d)** Hit the Button  
[http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button)

- My new favorite
- Choose “times tables” for earlier memorizing stages
- Available as an app in app store/Google Play store

**e)** [www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)  
I’ve not used this website, but have had students and parents tell me it’s great.

**3] apps**

- a) Sushi Monster
- b) Math Facts Ninja
- c) Math Bingo
- d) Quick Math, 4.5 stars in the App Store  
  This is a great app, but better once students are partially/mostly fluent. If not, the randomization of facts given can frustrate them.
- e) Hit the Button
4) other web-based games and practice sites I've recommended in the past (links NOT checked for validity)

Multiplication Baseball (almost the same as the one that will be played at school)
http://www.funbrain.com/math/index.html

Multiplication Tunnel Blaster
http://www.playkidsgames.com/games/Tunnel/MULTIPLY.HTM#

Academic Skill Builder games (an assortment, both multiplication and division)
http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/

Multiplication Facts Puzzle
http://www.wmnet.org.uk/wmnet/custom/files_uploaded/uploaded_resources/504/multiplicationpuzzle.swf

Multiplication/Division “machine”
http://www.channel4learning.com/sites/puzzlemaths/md_machine_game.shtml

Very fun….multiples of ten
http://resources.oswego.org/games/Ghostbusters1/gbcd.html

Multiplication.com—a plethora of interactive games to choose from!
http://www.multiplication.com/interactive_games.htm

A little more advanced….2 player….The Product Game
http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?ID=29