



GRIDBLOCK

Using a grid like the one on page 227 to support your child when introducing times tables can be helpful. For some children, the idea of working out the answers can seem hugely daunting. In a similar way to how I've often suggested we play with words to familiarize our little ones with them before they have to learn how to spell them, I also recommend playing games where the answer is readily available at the beginning. This can help to build confidence, which is always worth doing.

GRAB:

- chalk
- bean bags (if you don't have bean bags, fill a sandwich bag with some uncooked rice and seal it)
- pen, paper and scissors – or multiplication number sentences on flash cards
- a container

TO SET UP ...

1. On the floor, draw a grid for the times table you're working on, in the same style as the one shown on page 227.
2. Write and cut out multiplication number sentences (for example, $3 \times 2 =$ and $6 \times 2 =$) to match the grid (or grab your flash cards – see page 7), and pop them in the container.

TO PLAY ...

1. Take it in turns to draw a number sentence out of the container. Together, work out the answer using the grid.
2. As soon as you've got the answer, both throw your bean bags at the number in the grid on the floor. The first one to get it to land on the correct answer gets to keep the number sentence.
3. The winner is the one with the most number sentences at the end!
4. Try to (gently!) block each other as you shoot for the target if you like. Get competitive and run around the grid or try to hit each other's bean bag mid-air!