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# How to do effective oral drilling

This kind of drilling is aimed at memorizing a certain times table. It should be used only after the child has already studied multiplication concept to some extent and understands the concept itself.

When you are doing drills to memorize, explain to the child that the goal is to *memorize* the facts, to recall from memory, and not to get the answers by counting or some other method. Just like your child probably has memorized your address and phone number, now she/he is going to memorize some math facts. You can easily see if the student is trying to count because producing the answer takes much more time. You should expect the answers from the child immediately when you are drilling. If he/she doesn't know the answer by heart (from memory), then tell him/her the right answer.

Usually short drill sessions are best. You can drill for example for five minutes at a time, or ten, depending on the child. You can have several sessions within a day though, as your schedule permits.

Paper-pencil activities where the child is left alone, do not work really well for memorizing the facts - the child may get the answers by counting and not from memory. So it will take time from the teacher/parent. If you can, utilize older siblings in the drilling task too. Computers are great drillers since they won't get tired and you can usually choose a timed session where the child is then forced to produce the answers quickly. Children can actually enjoy the memorization process when they notice they are truly learning the facts and are able to go through the drills successfully. Computer programs and computer-based drilling can be very rewarding to children and let them enjoy memorizing times tables. See [http://www.homeschoolmath.net/math\\_resources\\_2.php](http://www.homeschoolmath.net/math_resources_2.php) for a list of free interactive online multiplication activities.

The method below has several steps from 1 to 5. You can work on only a few of the steps in one session, again, depending on the child's concentration and ability.

## Memorizing the table of 3 - in steps

Have a table to be worked on all ready written on paper. We will use here the table of three as an example.

1 x 3 = 3  
2 x 3 = 6  
3 x 3 = 9  
4 x 3 = 12  
5 x 3 = 15  
6 x 3 = 18  
7 x 3 = 21  
8 x 3 = 24  
9 x 3 = 27  
10 x 3 = 30  
11 x 3 = 33  
12 x 3 = 36

1. First task is to memorize the list of the answers, so to speak. Study first the list up until the midpoint, meaning the list 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18. Try to require answers from your child and not give them too easily, because ONLY by straining her mind will she make the effort to eventually memorize these facts. The mind is like muscles: it needs exercise to become stronger.