Here’s an engaging game designed to help children practice multiplication facts.

This multiplication game focuses on the early numbers (the ones conveniently found on dice) so the multiplication facts spread from 1x1 to 6x6. It is an ideal game for children who are fairly familiar with the tables but are in need of additional opportunities to practice their recall.

The focus here is on identifying specific products when two factors are given. This is not about ‘teaching’ or ‘learning’ facts, but purely about strengthening ‘recall’ strategies!

The children work with a game-board each (see the next two pages)

They also need two dice and a set of unifix blocks (or lego bricks, counters or small construction pieces).

HOW TO PLAY

Players take turns to roll both dice, find the product of the number and place a unifix cube (lego brick) on the appropriate building space.

Here a dice roll of 3 and 6 gives a product of 18. This player places a brick on the space labelled 18.

Play continues with each player rolling both and constructing a 'building' on the appropriate Product they create with the dice numbers.

The first player to manage to build towers of 3 or more blocks on all of their spaces is the winner.

PLAYING TIPS

- When we photographed this game we used dotty dice; however, we recommend using numbered dice, rather than dotty ones. Children need to focus on the number, not the quantity.

- Encourage the children to use the vocabulary (Factors and Products) when they play the game.

- Change the rules. If building 3 towers on every space is a little daunting swap that rule out. Maybe the requirement becomes 'the winner is the first to have one or more bricks on every number.'

- Play on one board. We designed the game so that players had a game board each. But it works just as well with one board between two players. Each player has their own coloured bricks. If a player's brick is occupying a building space no one else can build on it! The winner is the player with the most buildings after ten minutes of play.
Take turns to roll two dice, and build towers on the product.

The winner is the first player to build a tower more than three bricks tall on each base.
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