

Mental maths dice game



This is a very flexible mental maths game which can be used to hone specific mental maths skills. It is ideally suited to one to one tutoring or very small groups. It can be used to practise mental addition, subtraction and multiplication and is extremely good for reinforcing times tables.

I have used this game extensively with both adults and children and visible improvements can be seen in a very short time, without it being either too boring or too burdensome for the learner (or the teacher). Give it a try. It really does work.

Target audience: Entry 3 and below
Required resources: A pair of dice
Duration: From 5 minutes to indefinite

Example Games

GAME 1: Very basic mental addition or subtraction game for two players

Variation 1 Addition: Rules

Objective: First player to reach 100 wins

1/ Player 1 (learner) starts by rolling two dice. He/she adds the numbers on the dice and writes the total down.

2/ Player 2 (other learner or tutor) rolls the dice, adds the numbers and writes them down.

3/ Player 1 rolls the dice, adds the numbers on the dice and must mentally add this score to their previous total and then write this running total down.

4/ The game simply repeats until someone reaches 100.

Variation 2 Subtraction: Rules

Objective: Both players start at 100 and subtract down. The first to reach zero wins.

1/ The rules for this game are exactly the same as Variation 1 except that you subtract the dice score instead of adding it.

GAME 2: Mental addition/subtraction and times tables practice game

Variation 1 Addition: Rules

Objective: The first player to reach a pre-agreed target score wins.

1/ The players agree a particular times table to practise and a target score.

2/ Player 1 (learner) starts by rolling two dice. He/she adds the numbers on the dice and then mentally multiplies this by the agreed times table number and writes the total down.

3/ Player 2 (other learner or tutor) rolls the dice and does the same as above.

4/ Player 1 rolls the dice etc. as in rule 1 and then must mentally add this total to their previous total and then writes this running total down.

5/ The game simply repeats until someone reaches the agreed target score.

Variation 2 Subtraction: Rules

Objective: Both players start at a pre agreed number and subtract down. The first to reach zero wins.

1/ The rules for this game are exactly the same as Variation 1 except that it is mental subtraction.

In any of the games above, if player 2 is the tutor then they should get player 1 (the learner) to do all of the maths for both players and to say what techniques they are using for the cumulative calculations. This applies to all of the variations of the game.