



Maths Wrap


KS: 1, 2
Price: Classic £6.35, Deluxe £9.99
Contact: www.mathswrap.co.uk
Reviewed by Cherri Moseley

Maths Wrap is a kinaesthetic learning aid to help children master their times tables facts. It is a simple red, plastic device about the size of a mobile phone. A series of slots numbered 1-12 line up along its top edge. Along the bottom, there's space for an interchangeable strip; and 12 more grooves. Children slot a card displaying the first twelve multiples of a particular times table into this gap. However, the multiples are not in order. It is up to the children to match the numbers along the top of the Maths Wrap to the correct multiple on the card beneath. They do this by winding a piece of string between the corresponding slots along the top and bottom edges. Now here's the clever bit. One the back of each card you'll find a series of slanting coloured lines. Once children have finished winding, they can check their answers by flipping the Maths Wrap over and comparing the pattern made by the sting to the direction of the lines. If they match, the children's answers are correct!

The Maths Wrap comes with 12 strips – one for each times table up to 12. There's also a Maths Wrap Deluxe, which has strips for decimals, fractions, percentages, addition and subtraction as well as multiplication tables.

Since learning times table facts is one of my school's key priorities for this year, I agreed to carry out a four week trial of the Maths Wrap in my Y3 class. In order for us to judge how much progress they made during this time, the children started and ended the trial period by taking two different times table fact tests (one in grid form and one with missing numbers). We also set up a control group: another Y3 class that took the same tests at the same time but did not use Maths Wrap and carried on with normal lesson activities.

The children liked the look of the Maths Wrap and were immediately fascinated. After a good fiddle and a practice, they were keen to start timing themselves. They worked in pairs with one child 'wrapping' while



VERDICT: GOOD TIMES

After four weeks of using the Math Wrap, the children took the same times table test they'd completed a month before. Some pupils halved their times or doubled the number of correct answers. They also became far more confident; the number of questions not attempted reduced to almost zero. The children are certainly motivated by the Maths Wrap and they clearly work. I will definitely be using them with future classes.

their partner timed them. At first, I limited the time to three minutes so that no one was waiting too long for their turn. But after the first week it was rare to go more than a minute before everyone had finished. When the children weren't being timed, they raced each other.

We used Maths Wrap three to five times a week as the maths lesson starter. Children could also choose to use the resource when they had completed an activity or had free time. And they certainly did! The children loved them, and still do.

The string did occasionally pull through the holes but this was easily

remedied by tying another knot on top of the first, making the knot too big to pull through. The children initially complained that the slots for the string were a bit small, but they soon got used to them and decided that they were, in fact, just right.

After four weeks, the same multiplication facts tests were retaken. The class using the Maths Wrap improved their grid test score by an average of 20%, while the control class improved by an average of 7%. On the missing numbers test, the Wrap class improved their score by an average of 15% while the control class improved by an average 3%.



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The Government is proposing important changes to four key areas: a new primary curriculum; the teaching of personal, social, health and economic education; level descriptions for subjects; and the non-statutory guidance for religious education. If you have strong views on any of these topics, log on to www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation and join the discussion before it's too late.