

Multiply With Mister H

How to use multiples songs to get your kids to multiply

First, Teach your kids Mister H's multiples songs.

- Choose a set of multiples (e.g. the 3's). Write down the first ten multiples: 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30
- Play the corresponding song a couple of times, while pointing at each multiple in turn.
- Turn off the music and teach the song line by line. Then turn the music back on for more practice.
- **IMPORTANT:** Once the song becomes easier, teach them to hold up ten fingers and count each multiple on a different finger in sequence while singing.
- Play the music frequently, even in the background of other tasks. Simply put, if they hear it enough, they'll learn it.

Next, teach your kids how to multiply by counting multiples.

- Write a corresponding multiplication fact on the board.
- Teach: **one number is the number you are counting by and the other tells you how many times.**
 - For example, if the problem is 3×4 , tell them **3** is the number they're counting by and that the **4** tells them how many times.
- Hold up as many fingers as the **number of times** you'll be counting. In the above example, 4 fingers.
- Sing the song while counting the multiples on your fingers. Stop on the proper finger. "Give me 3, 6, 9! **12!**"
- (Usually, some kids will sing extra multiples at first. Reiterate that we're only counting by 3 four times, so we have to stop on the fourth multiple).
- **Repeat** these steps until they master this procedure.
- Once they've learned at least 2 songs, it's a good idea to teach the **commutative property** ($3 \times 4 = 4 \times 3$). Prove that it works either way, using the songs.

Once your students have learned how to multiply using skip-counting, all they need to do is learn the rest of the songs!