

# 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  $3 \times 4$ , 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!**