

Helping Your Child with Arrays in Year 2 Maths

Key points

- An array is a way of arranging objects into neat rows (going across) and columns (going down) to help children see how multiplication works.
- Using arrays helps children understand that multiplication is simply adding the same group of numbers over and over again.
- Children learn that they can read an array in two ways, such as 3 rows of 4 or 4 columns of 3, and the answer stays the same.
- In Year 2, arrays are used to help children become familiar with the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and the way arrays are taught may vary slightly between different schools.

Things to try at home

- Use pieces of pasta or buttons to make small grids on the table and count them together.
- Look for arrays in the real world, such as the way eggs are laid out in a carton or the buttons on a remote control.
- Use a muffin tin or an ice cube tray to place small toys in equal rows and columns.
- Draw simple grids of dots on a piece of paper and see if your child can spot how many rows there are.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher
- The GOV.UK website for National Curriculum guidance
- The school's maths lead or parent handbook