



# Parent Guide to One Minute Brain Teasers

Play a quick-fire, fast thinking, short and snappy brain teasing game to practise whatever maths skills you want your child to develop.

- Decide which maths skills your child is ready to practise by:
  - talking to your child
  - looking at your child's maths homework and discussing it with them
  - talking to your child's teacher
  - reading through the age group summary of what maths is covered in school
  - asking your child some trial maths questions to see how they get on.
- Decide on the challenge. It could be to see how many questions your child can answer in a minute, or to see if they can answer 10 questions within a certain time.
- You may also want to decide on a reward for all your child's efforts! Perhaps there's a special activity or a little treat for each day that they complete a One Minute Brain Teaser. Or perhaps there's a bigger reward you could work towards by completing a certain number of One Minute Brain Teasers each week, month or term.
- Consider what kinds of questions to ask. Bear these things in mind:
  - Some children would most benefit if all the questions are about the same maths skill, such as adding two-digit numbers or finding a fraction of an amount. Other children would like some variety in the questions.

## One Minute Brain Teasers (continued)

- Children need to practise straightforward calculations (such as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 48) and real-life problem solving. A real life problem might be '48 children from your school did a sponsored run. Three quarters of them completed the run. How many is this?'
- Children need to practise both working things out in their head (mental maths) and using written methods to solve maths questions.
- Silly questions, and questions that relate to something that's really going on in a child's life, can add some fun.



### Example questions

Answers are shown in brackets.

#### Contextual problems:

We had 24 eggs in the fridge. An elephant broke into the fridge, slipped in the butter and fell over. He broke half the eggs. How many did he break? (12)

If your football team scores 2 goals in the first match of the season, 4 goals in the second, 0 goals in the third and 2 goals in the fourth... then what would the mean average goal score be over those 4 matches? (2)

If I put a cake in the oven at 6:15 and take it out at 6:50 how long has it been baking? (35 minutes)

Seven friends share 63 strawberries equally between them. How many do they get each? (9)

In the shop you spend £1.69 on butter and £2.43 on cheese. How much do you spend all together? (£4.12)

#### Calculations:

What's 9 lots of 7? (63)

What is 25% as a fraction? ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )

What is  $\frac{3}{4}$  as a decimal? (0.75)

What is 10% of 150? (15)

What do you add to 1.4 to make 2? (0.6)

- Plan questions to suit your child and change them as you find out more about what they find hard and what they find easy.

## Good Luck!