



Tried and tested

Continuing our Tried and Tested series, we look at another flexible resource from Flexitable.

The Flexitable programme consists of different grids all printed on soft flexible plastic that have vertical and horizontal channels allowing children to continuously fold them again and again. Last year we looked at the Flexitable addition/subtraction and multiplication/division tables. The products got such good feedback that we decided to look at the company's 100 square table. The company initially decided to produce the 100 square after they received many requests for it from teachers. With columns of odd figures printed in green and even numbers printed in blue, this table can help children gain familiarity with the numbers 1–100 and discover basic number patterns.

We took the 100 square table to Sue Sinclair, Teacher at Parkside Middle School in Bromsgrove and also spoke to Mrs Vicky Baldock, Teacher at Aldbury Primary School.

What was your initial opinion of the product?

“As soon as I saw the 100 square I realised that I had been handed a simple, durable and effective support aid to use in the maths lesson. I deal with a range of mixed ability classes and some children need more support than others (particularly during mental maths sessions where a good knowledge of times tables is needed). The 100 square deals with this admirably well and allows children of all abilities to feel included in the lesson.” (Sue Sinclair)

What was your initial opinion of the product?

“I was advised to purchase one of the 100 squares by a Special Educational Needs Coordinator, because one of the pupils in my class needed extra support in maths. Whilst we have only had the square for two months,

it seems clear that the product can help children take part more fully in maths lessons, whilst not making them feel uncomfortable or ‘singled-out’.” (Vicky Baldock)

After talking to both Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Baldock, it became apparent that there is a real need in maths lessons for simple support aids (like the 100 square). Modern maths teachers are faced with a barrage of software, books, games and posters but more often than not what is needed is something simpler. The 100 square couldn't be more simple and easy to use, lasts for a very long time and costs very little. All in all this is another excellent product from Flexitable.

However, one question did come up during our look at this product. Should a 100 square start at 0 (zero) or 1 (one). In my opinion (for what it is worth) the square should start at 1 as children do not count from zero. A child would not say “I can see zero trees”. But what do you think?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Have your say

Should a 100 square grid start at 0 (zero) or 1 (one)? Please email the Editor at jsmith@questpub.co.uk or Tony Campbell at cpl.flex@virgin.net

Star ratings

Curriculum compatibility: ★★★★★
 Ease of use: ★★★★★
 Value for money: ★★★★★
 Overall: ★★★★★

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